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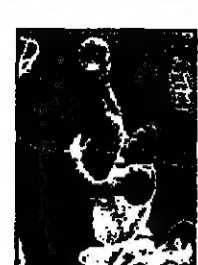
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Both sides of the law



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The law according to Danny DeVito



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## Switzerland balks at freeing Mossad agent

By **BAT-SHEVA TSUR**  
 and news agencies

Switzerland has decided not to free a Mossad agent allegedly involved in a bungled wiretapping bid. He will remain in custody while the case is being probed, Switzerland's chief prosecutor said yesterday.

A Swiss lawmaker confirmed, meanwhile, that a man with links to Hizbullah is assumed to be the target of the failed Mossad espionage attempt.

"He is on the Israelis' black list," said Bernhard Seiler, chairman of the Swiss parliament's joint panel that supervises intelligence services.

Seiler also said Swiss investigators have concluded that a sixth Mossad agent was apparently in charge of the operation.

Federal Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte denied Israeli media speculation that a man being held would be released shortly in return for Israeli assurances he would be returned for trial.

"There is no question of releasing the detained agent before the investigation is completed and

**Should the Mossad lower its profile? Page 2**

there are no agreements of any kind," Del Ponte said in Bern following talks with Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein.

"On the basis of the investigation so far, it is certain that six Israeli agents took part in the Mossad action," Del Ponte said.

Following the investigation, she said, she would recommend whether the case would go to a federal or a canton court.

Del Ponte said she had briefed Rubinstein on Wednesday "on Swiss procedure." Rubinstein had left Israel unannounced on Tuesday night to fly to Switzerland.

"The case is complicated,"

Rubinstein said on his return yesterday. He described his efforts as "part of the general contacts with the Swiss authorities to secure the man's release. The contacts are continuing. We hope to have a solution as soon as possible."

Reports from Switzerland say there have been demands on the part of the opposition to prevent the agent's release.

At the same time, Seiler, questioned whether the action was genuinely wiretapping — or a staged flop aimed at forcing Danny

Yatom to leave the Mossad.

Seiler said there were two reasons for this question. "You have to wonder why it would take six people to come from Israel to Switzerland to install a telephone listening device," he said. "There's got to be more behind it."

The other reason was that the possible target — Abdallah Zein, a Lebanese married to a Swiss woman — had not lived in the apartment for two or three years. The bungled attempt came to

light when a neighbor called the police. Canton police apprehended five men on February 19 as they were installing sophisticated wiretapping equipment in the basement. They released all but one suspect.

A sixth "apparently stayed in the background," Seiler said. "They think he is the head of the group."

Seiler said that he was astonished that Swiss federal police had never informed Bern canton police that they knew of Zein's ties to Hizbullah.

## PM: I'd welcome more talks in Madrid

By **JAY BUSHINSKY**  
 and news agencies

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday in Madrid that he would welcome the convening of another peace conference in the Spanish capital.

Spanish Foreign Minister Abel Matutes raised the possibility of a second Madrid conference shortly after Netanyahu's arrival.

Rather than expecting Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese negotiators to attend, Matutes indicated that it might suffice to convene Israeli-Palestinian negotiations as the sole objective.

"I would have no problems with a renewed Madrid conference," Netanyahu replied. "I would welcome it. Seven years ago we made an important breakthrough for peace in this city."

"Actually we can meet anywhere, even in Gaza," Netanyahu said. "The question is what the purpose will be. A gathering of a number of countries is a good thing, but there is no substitute for direct talks."

At a joint news conference with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, Netanyahu said the peace process should not be allowed to

## Major Hamas terror cell captured

Group includes five members involved in '97 Jerusalem suicide attacks

By **MARGOT DUDKEVITCH**  
 and **MOHAMMED NAJIB**

The General Security Service, IDF, and Israel Police have cracked a major Hamas cell that operated in Ramallah, Nabulus, and the Jerusalem area, the IDF Spokesman announced yesterday.

The spokesman released the names of five of the Izzadine Kassam members and said others are in custody. They are suspected of being involved in two suicide-bomb attacks in Jerusalem last year that killed 22 people and injured 345, and five shooting attacks in Judea and Samaria between November 1995 and May 1997, one of which resulted in the death of yeshiva student David Boim near Beit El. Other attacks are also attributed to the cell (see box).

The five suspects are: Muadi Balaf, 26, of Nabulus; Palestinian Police officer Amar Zaban, 22, of Nabulus; Muab Jibarrah, 22, of Beit Hanina; former Technion student Izzan Halush, 26, of Nabulus; and Abdullah Bakri, 24, of Al-Bireh. Bakri appeared yesterday in Beit El Military Court, which remanded him till the end of proceedings.

Referring to the arrest of a Palestinian policeman among the Hamas suspects, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that to the best of his knowledge there was no involvement by the Palestinian Authority or its security arms.

"But there were individuals who belong to those bodies who were involved and we are investigating that," Netanyahu said.

Military sources said the terrorist suspects received orders from the movement's leadership in Jordan, including Khaled Mashal. They in turn contacted Hamas activists held in Israeli and Palestinian prisons.

Palestinian security officials confirmed they had arrested nine Hamas activists on Tuesday, but refused to say whether they had acted on information received from Israel.

Security sources said the terrorists planned to carry out a suicide bomb attack in the capital's French Hill neighborhood, detonate car bombs in Haifa and Ariel, carry out shooting attacks



Suspected Hamas terrorist Abdullah Bakri is led away from Beit El Military Court yesterday.

(Reuters)

## Attacks carried out by Hamas terror cell

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

The Hamas cell recently captured is blamed for masterminding the two suicide bombings in Jerusalem last year and at least five drive-by shootings, including the one in which yeshiva student David Boim was killed.

The following is the list of attacks attributed to the cell:

- November 24, 1997 - Attempt to kidnap an IDF soldier.
- September 4, 1997 - The triple suicide bombing on Rehov Ben-Yehuda in Jerusalem that killed five and wounded 169.
- July 30, 1997 - Double suicide bombing at Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market which killed 16 people and injured 169.
- July 1997 - Firebomb attack on a Border Police jeep near Joseph's Tomb, in which two police officers were injured.
- May 1997 - Automatic gunfire at the entrance to Eilon Moreh. No injuries reported.
- April 1997 - Laying of roadside bomb along the road to Joseph's Tomb. It was not detonated.
- June 1996 - Gunshots fired at an IDF officer at Hirtel Eyal, lightly wounding him.
- May, 1996 - Gunshots fired at a bus and bus stop at Beit El. Yeshiva student David Boim is killed and three other people wounded.
- December 1995 - Drive-by shooting at a military vehicle near Ein Bidan. No one is injured.
- November 1995 - Drive-by shooting and wounding of Rabbi Uzi Nevo near Kochav Ya'acov.

## UK seeks greater EU role in Mideast, Page 3

stagnate. "I think it can move forward with help from outside," he said.

Netanyahu said he has not "implored" Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to join him for talks. "I suggested a way out of the crisis to him. I said to him that if you want to advance matters, you will have to fulfill your commitments so that we can fulfill our remaining commitments."

"Beyond this simple and understandable fact, we certainly would discuss the things that would complete the peace process between us and the Palestinians."

Netanyahu's arrival coincided with the publication of an interview with him in the mass-circulation Spanish daily *El Pais*.

"The problem is Europeans know nothing about the Middle East," Netanyahu reportedly said. He described Europe's perception as if the regional conflict were between an Israeli Goliath and a Palestinian David.

See **MADRID**, Page 22

## No 'right of return' for non-Jewish spouses

By **HAIM SHAPIRO**

In a policy introduced quietly over the past two years, the Interior Ministry has made it increasingly difficult for Israeli Jews to marry non-Jewish foreigners and live with them in Israel, according to civil-rights activists.

Anat Scolnicov, an attorney for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, said that although the policy appeared to be related to the large number of non-Jews who immigrated from the Soviet Union under the Law of Return, it has been applied to all non-Jews. She added that it is hard to say exactly when this policy went into effect, since the guide-

lines only became evident when those affected began approaching organizations such as ACRU for help.

"The Interior Ministry doesn't publish its criteria," she said.

However, the ministry recently made public its policy in a brief to the High Court of Justice. By granting special privileges to the spouses of Israeli Jews, it said, it would be discriminating against the spouses of Israeli non-Jews.

"Should the rights of a foreigner who marries a Jewish citizen ... be any greater than those of a foreigner marrying a citizen who is not Jewish?" the ministry asked in its brief.

See **SPOUSES**, Page 22

## Philips: No more 'not-made-in-Israel' certificates

By **DAVID HARRIS**

Dutch-based Philips Electronics will no longer provide "not-made-in-Israel" documentation for purchasers who refuse to buy goods manufactured here, the company told *The Jerusalem Post* this week.

Last month, company spokesman Ben Geerts admitted that "if [customers] specifically ask for negative source-of-origin documentation, we will provide it and we have done so in the past."

However, during a meeting last week with Ambassador to the Netherlands Yossi Gal, Philips Chairman and President Cornelis Boonstra said he has issued a directive banning the practice. During the meeting, Boonstra described the policy of issuing negative documentation as

"absurd."

At the company's forthcoming shareholders' meeting, Boonstra said he will say that the policy was wrong and that it has been changed, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Furthermore, Boonstra said the company intends to open an office in Israel before the end of the year.

Philips spokeswoman Alison Screeton confirmed the policy change.

"There were some inconsistencies in company policy concerning negative source-of-origin documentation, particularly regarding Israel," she said. "On discovering this, we immediately looked into the matter with some urgency and as a result have issued new instructions that will end this practice and our inconsistencies."

This will be monitored very closely."

Concerning the opening of an office in Israel, Screeton said the company has appointed someone to investigate the various business possibilities here, but stressed "this is only at the earliest stages."

An example of the type of notice that Philips has decided it

will no longer distribute was issued for a company office in Dubai on November 11. The notice, concerning Philips Domestic Appliances and Personal Care, confirmed that certain goods shipped to Africa "are not of Israeli origin, nor do they contain materials of Israeli origin, nor constitute part of German reparations goods to Israel."

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## NEWS

in brief

### Barak: I would have joined terror group

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, on the cable television program *Personal Meeting with Gideon Levy* which is to be broadcast tonight and tomorrow, said that, had he been a Palestinian, it is possible that at a suitable age he would have joined one of the terrorist organizations. Barak added, however, that in any case he would have fought against attacks on innocent men, women, and children.

Likud MK Uzi Landau blasted Barak's remark, saying it "encouraged young Palestinians to join terror groups and legitimized terrorist activity." *Liat Collins and Tim*

### Annan to visit Middle East this month

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan will make official visits to Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinian Authority-controlled territories from March 19 to 26, his spokesman said yesterday. Other details of his itinerary have not yet been announced.

The trip had originally been scheduled for last month, but was postponed because of the crisis over Iraq, when he carried out an 11-hour peace mission to Baghdad.

Annan will not be able to visit Jordan, which was on his original itinerary, because of "prior commitments on the Jordanian side," spokesman Fred Eckhard said, adding that Annan hopes to visit Jordan at the earliest mutually convenient time. *Reuters*

### B'nai B'rith head visits Pollard

Tommy P. Baer, the international president of B'nai B'rith, planned yesterday to hold a first meeting with convicted spy Jonathan J. Pollard in the Butner, North Carolina prison where he is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel. Last year B'nai B'rith called on US President Bill Clinton to commute Pollard's sentence. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Hadassah rebels against road slaughter

The MERED (an acronym for the Hebrew words: enough murder on the roads) campaign will begin on Sunday under the sponsorship of Hadassah-Israel. MERED stations will be set up at various locations and drivers passing them will be asked to sign a petition requesting increased police surveillance on the roads and be given stickers and ribbons for their cars to publicize the campaign and show support. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Judge denies Pakovitch release request

The Jerusalem District Court yesterday denied a request by Damian Pakovitch to appeal again against a decision for him to remain in custody through the end of his trial. Pakovitch was charged in January with plotting alongside Avigdor Eskin to throw a pig's head at Moslem worshippers near Al Aqsa during Ramadan. Eskin has since been released to house arrest.

Pakovitch has also been charged with setting fire to a Dor Shalom office in Jerusalem and for laying a pig's head on the grave of Izzedin el Kassem in a Moslem cemetery in Nesher. *Tim*

### Arabs call for boycott of J'lem celebrations

The 22-member Arab group yesterday called for a boycott of events in Jerusalem to celebrate Israel's 50th anniversary on the grounds they would violate international law.

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the group's chairman, ambassador Mikhail Wehbe of Syria, said:

"These planned celebrations in Jerusalem constitute a gross violation of international law, numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as the principle and spirit of the agreements reached between the government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization," Wehbe wrote. *Reuters*

### Reward posted in LA synagogue fires

A \$20,000 reward has been offered by the City of Los Angeles to spur the investigation into arson at two Orthodox synagogues during Hanukkah. The fires damaged portions of Congregations Kehillas Yaacov and Shaarei Tefilah, located on the same block of Beverly Blvd. in the traditionally Jewish Fairfax district. *Tom Tagend*

# Cabinet to meet on Lebanon

## Mordechai to meet with French officials today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and DAVID RUDGE

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated yesterday that he will call a cabinet meeting on Lebanon immediately after his return from Western Europe next week. Its purpose evidently will be to win a formal government endorsement of his decision to accept UN Security Council Resolution 425 and apply its provisions to the IDF's projected withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

"We are in a paradoxical situation with regard to Lebanon," Netanyahu said. "We want to pull out of Lebanon but the Lebanese do not want us to pull out or are not interested in our pulling out."

He contended that the Lebanese Army has the power to eliminate Hizbullah. He said Israel will evacuate Lebanon only on the basis of the requisite guarantees "and that will be discussed by the cabinet and the government next week after my return."

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon was quoted as saying that 425, which was adopted 20 years ago, has never been endorsed by Israel.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, meanwhile, is to meet today with top French officials in Paris in a bid to win support for a renewed attempt to negotiate a withdrawal from Lebanon.

He is accompanied by his top adviser, David Ivry, who is responsible for working out strategic ties with European nations, and Uri Lubrani, government coordinator for activities in Lebanon.

In Lebanon, radio stations yesterday denied a report that a secret channel of communications had been opened with Israel to explore the possibility of reaching an arrangement. The report maintained that cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and the prime minister's adviser Uzi Arad had

met with a senior adviser to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi during their recent trip to Paris.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, who is in Beirut at the head of a top-level delegation, met yesterday with Hrawi. Details of their discussions were not released, and a joint press conference that had been scheduled was reportedly cancelled by Shara at the last minute.

Lebanese observers here said it was not immediately clear whether the cancellation indicated differences of opinion between the two.

The meeting was preceded by a telephone conversation on Wednesday night between Hrawi and Syrian President Hafez Assad about recent developments, including Israel's proposal to withdraw from south Lebanon under UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The proposal, to which Israel has linked demands for security arrangements that would guarantee the safety of the northern border and that of South Lebanese Army members and their families, has caused consternation in Beirut and Damascus.

Shara's two-day visit to Beirut and Assad's phone conversation with Hrawi were seen as part of efforts to coordinate positions.

The visit, which ended last night when Shara returned to Damascus, also included meetings with Foreign Minister Fares Bouez and other senior Lebanese officials.

Both ministers reiterated that Lebanon would not enter into negotiations with Israel over the latter's demands for security arrangements and would only accept an unconditional IDF withdrawal from the security zone.

Mordechai is slated to meet over the weekend with Defense Minister Alain Richard and Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine.

The IDF and the French military have cozy, albeit limited, ties. Chief of Staff Gen. Jean-

Philippe Douin and other top French brass visited last May. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Annon Lipkin Shabak visited Paris in 1996 and OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu visited last summer.

Mordechai is also expected to touch upon warming defense relations, despite the competition between the two countries' defense industries. Israel recently beat out a French firm in its bid to upgrade Turkey's F-5 fleet.

France is rated the world's third-largest defense exporter, with \$4 billion in annual sales, after the US and Britain. Israel is currently the fifth largest and expects about \$2 billion in sales this year. Defense sales between the two countries is minuscule. The French are interested in Israeli weapons technology, particularly in armor and avionics.

While in Paris, Mordechai is to meet with French Jewry and be the guest of honor at a ceremony honoring the IDF's 50th anniversary.

He is to visit the Netherlands on Monday and is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Willem Kok and with Defense Minister Dr. Joris Voorhoeve. Mordechai will also meet with members of the parliament's influential Foreign Relations and Defense Committee.

During the recent Gulf crisis, the Netherlands shipped 50,000 gas masks to the country and Mordechai intends to thank the Dutch government for its support.

Joining Mordechai in his official visit will be six young lieutenant-colonels, each one representing a different branch of the IDF.

AP adds: President Ezer Weizman yesterday called Israel's presence in Lebanon a "plague."

"How to leave Lebanon? This is not easy, but it must be done, it is a plague," he said on Channel 2.

Jay Bushinsky contributed to this report.



### Unknown burial place

Udi and Ron Gilnick yesterday pause by a plaque honoring their aunt's brother, Shaul Holtzman, who fell at Latrun during the War of Independence in 1948. He and the other fallen of Israel's wars whose burial places are unknown were remembered at a state ceremony at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery. *(Brian Hendler)*

## Should the Mossad lower its profile?

IN CONTEXT

Ephraim Halevy is only the second Mossad head to have his name publicized, while Amiram Levine is the first deputy head of the organization to have his name widely known.

Since the tenure of Danny Yatom, the first "public" Mossad chief, was not a resounding success, debate is flaring anew about whether it would be better — even in this age of Internet and cable news — for the Mossad to lower its profile and the heads of the secret services, both the Mossad and the General Security Service, be left to do their jobs in secret.

One of the biggest advocates of turning back the clock on publication of the name of the heads of the Mossad and GSS is Likud MK Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"Details of the Mossad chief should be secret, including his name, where he lives, and where he travels. This should be part of a general atmosphere that the secret services have to be kept away from contact with the press and the public," Landau said.

Landau, who also chairs the intelligence subcommittee, said that it is impossible to put the genie back in the bottle and place a clamp on using Halevy or Levine's names or photographs. But in the future, he said, it would be better if this information remained classified. Even if the name will, in the Internet Age, be known at a particular time to certain people, if it is not published in Israel, the heads of the organizations will not appear in the media every day, and will be able to work more effectively.

Landau said that this "openness," an atmosphere that starts with publication of the Mossad head's name, has a trickle-down effect on the rest of the agency, enabling other operatives to be more open in talking — and leaking — to the press. And leaks from the Mossad is a phenomenon that is increasingly perceived as having reached plague-like proportions.

Labor MK Ori Orr, another intelligence subcommittee member, said "it is too late" to once again make the name of the Mossad head classified information. "There are processes in the country that you simply cannot reverse. I never liked the publication of the names, and didn't think it was wise. But once it has been done, it cannot be undone," he said.

Orr termed as "nonsense" the argument that not knowing the name of the Mossad or GSS head somehow damaged the public's right to know. "It would be better if they [heads of the Mossad and GSS] could travel freely, and no one know who they are," he said.

Two former Mossad heads, Moshe Amit and Zvi Zamir, told the press this week that when their identities were hidden they were better able to travel abroad and supervise operations.

See MOSSAD, Page 12

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The above notice in Dutch announces a meeting in the Tel Aviv Hilton, regarding elections for the Dutch parliament.

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### Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 722254 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 113456 won the car.

Tickets 687970, 076261, 449260, 469051, 297319, 146733, 583972 and 749426 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 48629, 55829, 74266, 85678, 56668, 87795, 45198, 31971, 30595, 07584, 72867, 01577, 77611, 26867, 85354, 49926, 30310, 26923 and 52857 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 620, 531, 835 and 448 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 09, 10, 20 and 44 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 55 and 05. Tickets ending in 1 and 5 won NIS 10.

### TO OUR READERS

Due to a technical error, Avinoam Bar-Yosef's Agenda column did not appear in its entirety yesterday. The complete column appears today on Page 7.

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# Comptroller severely criticizes Nativ

By BATSHEVA TSUR and Nira

Nativ, the once-clandestine government agency which helped bring Jews from the former Soviet Union, has come under heavy fire from State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat.

There was chaos and waste in Nativ and many of its activities were not in keeping with good government, she said in part of a secret report released yesterday. Nativ head Ya'acov Kedmi had been particularly out of line, she said, and had "treated state property as if it were his own."

Following the release of the report, Yossi Katz, chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, called for the closure

of Nativ and the dismissal of Kedmi, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, following consultations with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Shtronsky, announced that he would soon appoint an interministerial team whose task will be to thoroughly examine the activities, structure and missions of Nativ.

Upon receiving Nativ's response to Ben-Porat's report, the team will examine the recommendations she recently submitted to the prime minister and then bring a program of necessary organizational changes for his approval.

Nativ was established by David Ben-Gurion in 1952 and its goal was to keep Soviet Jewry in touch with Judaism and Zionism. It

operated clandestinely behind the Iron Curtain and was responsible, to a large extent, for the wave of aliyah from the Soviet bloc in the 1970s. Nativ also established contacts in the West to create public pressure for freeing Soviet Jewry.

When the Jewish Agency became able to operate freely in the Soviet Union, Nativ continued to operate alongside it. Shortly after that, when the Soviet Union dissolved, Israel established diplomatic relations with the new republics.

But the continued activity of Nativ after the agency and the Foreign Ministry established a presence there led to a great deal of duplication, Ben-Porat said.

Moreover, Nativ did not succeed in its aim of encouraging aliyah and there should be "an investigation into whether it is capable of making a special contribution to achieving state goals," she wrote.

She took Kedmi to task particularly over Nativ's finances. The organization spent some NIS 7.5 million in 1992-93 but did not have an approved work plan. There were numerous ad hoc decisions by Kedmi to make unauthorized payments. Part of the budget came from non-profit organizations which were headed by senior Nativ officials, Ben-Porat said, but Kedmi displayed "extreme negligence" in reporting his budgetary sources.

In one instance cited in the

report, Kedmi ordered Hebrew teaching kits for close to NIS 700,000 even though they were described by the Education Ministry as "inferior."

In another instance, the department dealing with the West - aimed at getting support for freeing Soviet Jewry - was enlarged even after the gates of the former Soviet Union were opened. Ben-Porat recommended that the department be shut down.

Ben-Porat also relates to Nativ's failure - and the Jewish Agency's - to encourage aliyah from Moscow and Kiev. Only 1.5%-2.5% of the Jews of Moscow were exposed to Jewish-Zionist activity and only 3.5%-5.9% of those in Kiev, the report states.

## UK seeks greater EU role in Mideast

LONDON (Reuters) - British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook yesterday launched a new European Union drive to restart the stalled Middle East peace process ahead of a visit to the region later this month.

Cook told the Anglo-Arab Association that the peace process was "a key international priority" for Britain during its six-month presidency of the European Union.

"As the nearest neighbor to the Middle East, Europe has a major stake in peace. And so tonight I start an intensive European effort to stimulate progress," he said in a keynote speech.

"We have two clear aims - justice for the Palestinians and security for the Israelis," he said.

From March 15-18, Cook will visit Egypt, Jordan, PA-controlled areas, Israel, Syria and Lebanon to explain the EU's idea for breaking the stalemate.

In a magazine article published yesterday, Cook called for increased pressure on Israel, accusing the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of "holding up the peace process."

Even his speech, Cook stressed, that both sides had a duty to help untangle the process. He called on Israel to redeploy its troops and stop further settlement expansion and said the Palestinians should do more to improve security.

"These measures will restore some of the trust and optimism the peace process had before. They will require compromise and imagination from both sides," he said.

The EU also wanted to help open Gaza's airport and resume work on the seaport, without which an existing trade agreement with the Palestinians would be useless.

Whether Netanyahu listens to Cook is another matter. In an interview with a Spanish newspaper yesterday, he said Europeans knew nothing about the Middle East.

"I don't think that's true. European countries understand and appreciate the position of Israel and other peoples in the region. We have a big role to play," a British Foreign Office spokesman replied. "We can bring pressure to bear. We have substantial political and trade interests in the region which I don't think any country in the region can ignore."

Miguel Moratinos, the EU's envoy to the region, will accompany Cook on the trip. The peace process will be one of the main items on the agenda of an informal meeting of EU foreign ministers in Edinburgh on March 13 and 14.

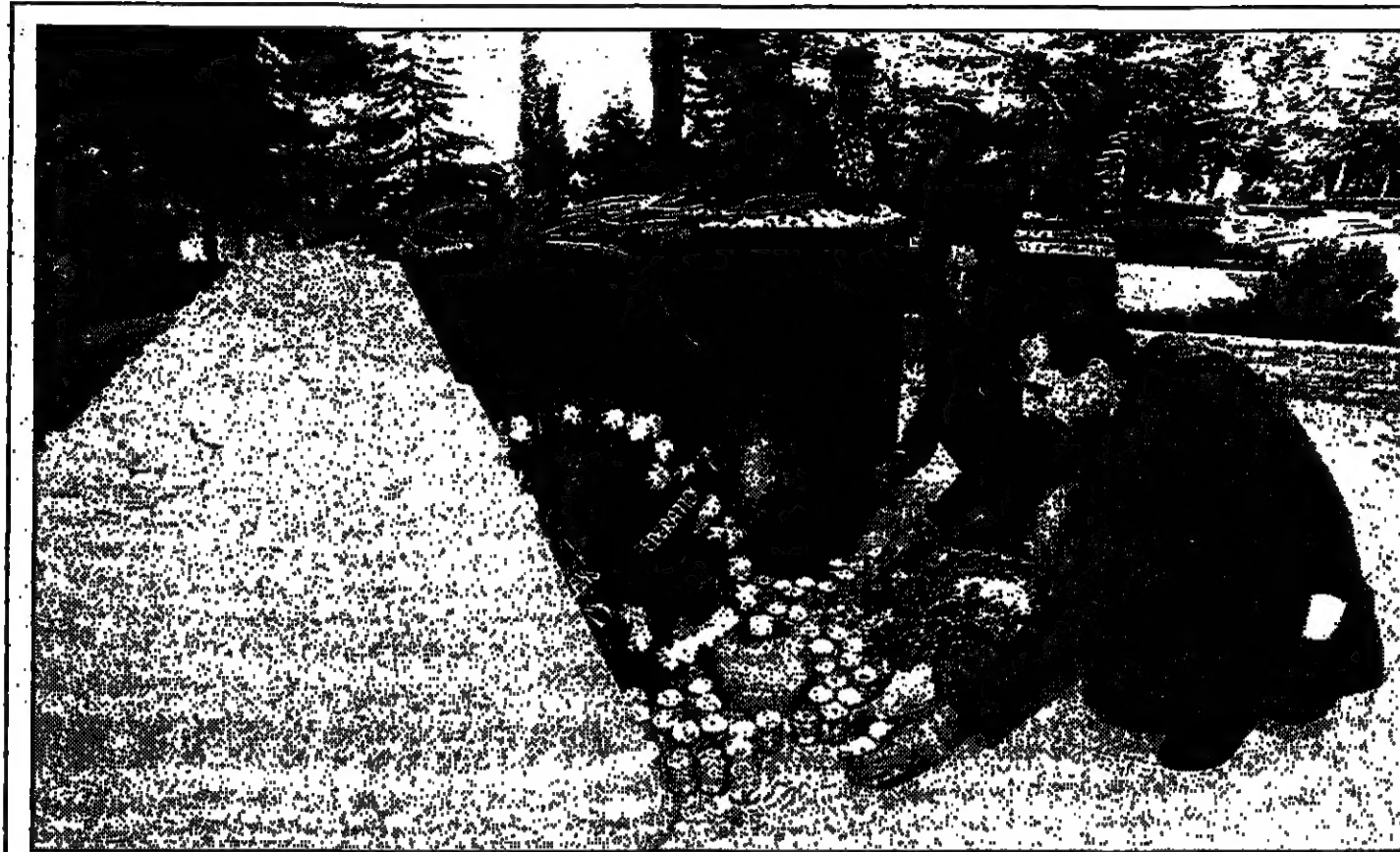
## Cyprus to Israel: Support demilitarization

By JAY BUSHENSKY

In a quiet, but persistent diplomatic effort, Nicosia's new ambassador to Israel has been trying to win Israel's public support for total demilitarization of the divided Eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

The proposal "interested" the Foreign Ministry's director-general, Eytan Bentsur, when it was presented to him by Ambassador Euripedes Evriades. Asked about this initiative on the eve of his departure for Spain with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Bentsur said he is planning a trip to Cyprus "soon" to obtain on-site information.

Newly reelected President Glafcos Clerides suggested to the UN Security Council in December 1995 that if Turkey evacuated its 30,000 troops from the island's north, now known as the Turkish



Remembering Rabin

Members of a group of 70 Palestinian students from Gaza, in Jerusalem for a two-day seminar with the Netivot Shalom religious Jewish students' organization, light memorial candles yesterday at the grave of Yitzhak Rabin on Mt. Herzl. (Issac Harari)

## Arafat to address special PLC session

By MARGOT DUKWITZ and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is to address a special Palestinian Legislative Council session tomorrow in Gaza, where he will discuss the political situation, the deadlock in peace negotiations, governmental guidelines, charges of corruption, and a planned cabinet reshuffle.

Palestinian legislators are to elect a new speaker, but Speaker Ahmed Qurie is expected to be reelected. However, PLC member and secretary of the Fatah movement in the West Bank Marwan Barghout declared that Qurie would face opposition for the first time.

He refused to divulge any candidates, but said a Fatah meeting in Gaza last night would appoint a rival. Barghout added that PLC members would hold a special session in Ramallah on Monday to review Arafat's speech and the issues raised in tomorrow's session. He said members are optimistic that Arafat will respond to the PLC's recommendations to fight corruption.

"Arafat will discuss the current political situation and legal and

administrative matters that he plans to act on," said PLC secretary Rawhi Fattouh.

He noted that the executive has not implemented PLC decisions, but said he expects the PA to take measures to assure the Palestinian people that it is acting responsibly.

PLC members threatened to resign last December because of Arafat's failure to authorize a basic law defining relations among the legislature, the judicial authority, and the executive committee. They also complained that the council's recommendations concerning corruption within the PA had been totally ignored.

Since then nothing has changed, members said yesterday, adding that unless Arafat deals with the issues tomorrow some members would resign.

Arafat met yesterday in Gaza with Leah Rabin, wife of slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, and discussed the current stalemate in peace negotiations. Palestinian officials said Rabin expressed hope negotiations would resume and that "the train of peace will reach its final destination quickly."

## UKM backs Palestinian state

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The United Kibbutz Movement convention at Kibbutz Yagur yesterday urged recognition of the Palestinians' right to an independent state and acknowledged the Oslo agreements as the basis for the continuation of the peace process.

Labor Party and opposition leader MK Ehud Barak told the convention the Palestinians have the right to self-determination within the boundaries of a final-status agreement.

"I have no doubt they'll define themselves as a Palestinian state and perhaps they'll go for a confederation with Jordan," said Barak, "but the definition is up to them - not the Likud, Labor, or the UKM."

Barak said it is Israel's vital interest to reach an agreement with the Syrians, warning that if the present paralysis in the peace process continues, "things will explode in our faces and we'll witness the Lebanonization of Israel. If things reach such an explosion, both sides will bury their dead and it will be a war of foolishness and

arrogance, leaving us ultimately at the present starting point."

Commenting on the Gulf crisis, Barak said the Netanyahu government is "the first in the state's history to have lost a war which never even began. We will never forgive ourselves if we miss the opportunity to make peace and find ourselves in a few years facing irresponsible, extremist leaders with weapons of mass destruction threatening our security."

Barak called for separation between Israel and the Palestinians, together with good neighborly relations and mutual respect. Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid told the convention there will be no leaving southern Lebanon without an agreement with Syria, and no agreement with Syria without withdrawal from the Golan.

The secretary of the Religious Kibbutz Movement, Danny Tamari, said "there is no alternative but to compromise with the Palestinians to preserve the integrity of the nation, which is a matter of life and death and more important than the integrity of the land."

## NEWS

in brief

### Suspect in command car theft remanded

The main suspect in the theft of a command car from an IDF base in the North last month, Ibrahim Gadir, of Kafr Hifil in the Galilee, was remanded for 15 days by Acre Magistrate's Court yesterday. Gadir, a former IDF tracker, apparently used his knowledge of the base to con the guards at the gate into letting him take the vehicle. It was found stripped shortly after the theft, but all its armament - three heavy machine guns with ammunition and a 52mm mortar with 21 rounds - were returned by the Palestinian Authority on Wednesday. Eight suspects - Gadir, five other Israelis, and two Palestinians - have been arrested and three others are still being sought. David Rudge

### Oz, Ravikovitz win Israel Prize

Amos Oz has been awarded this year's Israel Prize in literature and Dalia Ravikovitz in poetry, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy announced yesterday. The citations praised Ravikovitz's mixture of rich, elevated language with that of day-to-day life, and Oz's unique ability to capture the pain and the sparkle of the Israeli soul. The prizes will be awarded at the traditional ceremony on Independence Day. Jerusalem Post Staff

### Pardon-seekers ask ex-chief rabbi's support

A delegation from the ad hoc organization "Citizens for Jubilee Year Pardons" met yesterday with former chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu and other National Religious Party leaders in Jerusalem to seek support for their objective. Organization leader Kochavi Shemesh asked Eliahu for his backing, "in order to remove the drug addicts from prison so they could receive rehabilitation and treatment." Eliahu declined to express support for pardons publicly, telling Shemesh, "This is politics, leave me out of it." Itim

### Egged to launch late-night service in Jerusalem

Egged plans to start late-night bus service to four outlying neighborhoods in Jerusalem, starting March 15, at the request of Mayor Ehud Olmert. The buses are to leave from designated points downtown at 12:30 a.m. and 1 a.m. for Ramot, Pisgat Ze'ev, East Talpiot and Gilo, with stops along the way.

On Saturday night service will be added at 1:30 a.m. Olmert asked for the late service after 17-year-old Noa Eyal was found murdered on February 23. Police suspect she was killed while trying to hitch a ride home to Ramot after missing the last bus from Davidka Square. Elli Wohlgeleitner

### Man remanded in counterfeiting case

Ali Mugrabi, who was arrested on Wednesday night when he was found holding NIS 50,000 in counterfeit NIS 200 bills, was remanded for five days yesterday by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court. A police inspector told the court that the Bank of Israel is now considering changing all bills owing to the expert quality of the counterfeit money found with Mugrabi. Elli Wohlgeleitner

### Susskin to ask court for jail furlough

A petition will be filed today with the High Court of Justice on behalf of Tatiana Susskin, who is serving a two-year sentence for posting a caricature of Mohammed as a pig in Hebron, to allow her to have a vacation day, according to her lawyer Shmuel Casper. "She was eligible for vacation a month ago, but they decided she's a security prisoner, like Arab terrorists, and the General Security Service won't let her go on holiday," he said.

In a separate development yesterday, Jerusalem Magistrate's Court heard state prosecutors appeal to have a six-year-old decision against Susskin reversed. That case involved her failing to fulfill 60 hours of community service for not paying a bus fare. Elli Wohlgeleitner

### Report: CIA training PA security forces

With Israel's approval, Palestinian security forces are training in Washington with the CIA in counterterrorism, interrogation, espionage and information-gathering, according to a report in yesterday's *New York Times*. US officials told the paper that the CIA's cooperation is meant to improve the PA's ability to identify and apprehend terrorism suspects, as well as provide Israel with the confidence that the Palestinians are able to tackle terrorism.

Officials emphasized that the CIA only provides instruction in interrogation techniques that do not involve torture. The article stated that FBI agents also participate in the program run out of the CIA's Counterterrorism Center here. According to Human Rights Watch, half of the 18 deaths of suspects interrogated by the PA over the past four years occurred since the CIA training program began, the article states. Hillel Kutler

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NEWS

in brief

Edelstein visits immigrant troops

Minister of Immigration and Absorption Yuli Edelstein yesterday visited the IDF school for new immigrant soldiers in Acre. He spoke with soldiers who told him of their personal experiences and agreed that both the IDF and the ministry have made every effort to meet their needs and ease their absorption. Senior IDF officers told Edelstein there has been a dramatic increase in the motivation of these soldiers, and that since 1992 the number of immigrant officers has tripled. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

PM launches project to restore landmarks

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday adopted a proposal of the Council for the Preservation of Historical Sites to restore 50 landmarks linked to the creation of statehood. The restoration will be done over a three-year period at an approximate cost of NIS 75 million. In the first stage, 10 sites are to be restored before Independence Day, including Beit Herzl in the Hula Forest, the Old Kinneret Courtyard, Aaronsohn House, Sejera, Tel Hai and Kfar Etzion. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Prof. Moshe Prywes dies at 84

Prof. Moshe Prywes, the first president of Ben-Gurion University and dean of its medical school, died yesterday at the age of 84. BGU president Prof. Avishay Braverman will deliver a eulogy at the funeral scheduled for today at Beit Hahesped in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul quarter at 10:30 a.m. He served as associate dean of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine and head of its medical education department. Prywes also won the Israel Prize in medical sciences eight years ago. *Judy Siegel*

Yediot probes hoax in haredi rape-divorce story

Yediot Aharonot said yesterday it was reviewing accusations by a leading rabbi that a story about a haredi man being forced to divorce his wife because she was raped was a hoax. The story, published on February 25, said that a married mother of nine was raped by three men in Bnei Brak. Rabbis reportedly ruled that her husband must divorce her. Rabbi Micha Levy from Bnei Brak said on an Arny Radio talk show that after investigating for 10 days "no evidence was found to prove this story true. No rabbis have said they were involved in this... We believe this proves that the incident never happened." *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Hoter-Yishai gets slap on wrist

By GILLY LIPKIS BECK

Bar Association chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai, convicted of two counts of tax evasion, received a six-month suspended sentence and was fined NIS 50,000 by Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

Hoter-Yishai, on leaving the courtroom, said that he has no intention of resigning from the Bar Association and that he has no doubt the verdict will be overturned on appeal. He has 45 days to file an appeal with the district court.

"I will remain in the position as long as I think that I have something to contribute," he said adding that he will resign only if his appeal is rejected.

He did not express regret for the harsh words he said about Judge Ziva Hadassi-Herman and the legal system, upon hearing of his conviction two weeks ago. Several days after the remarks were made, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein directed the police to launch an investigation of Hoter-Yishai on suspicion of contempt of court.

"The verdict does not contribute to the respect one must have toward the legal system," said Hoter-Yishai.

He was convicted of helping his father, whose affairs he managed, to conceal income from the tax authorities and making false declarations to the tax authorities



Dror Hoter-Yishai (Yael Soudki/Tamir Sam)

eight years ago. He was acquitted of charges related to his own tax returns.

The charges are related to a payment of NIS 50,000 which was not recorded in the 1990 income tax report filed by his father, Aharon Hoter-Yishai. The income, together with additional income of NIS 100,000, was recorded in his father's 1991 statements, as tax-exempt income received by way of compensation for damages.

Hadassi-Herman said it is hard to ignore Hoter-Yishai's boastful words, insults, and remarks against the prosecution since the start of the trial 18 months ago.

"You shall know a man in his anger and not when he grieves," she said, adding that there is no doubt that it would have been better if the harsh words were not

said. In deciding on the sentence, Hadassi-Herman said her main consideration was the need to caution others to refrain from the temptation to engage in tax offenses.

Prosecutor Ella Rubinek asked that Hoter-Yishai be sentenced severely, emphasizing that he is a "public representative who is supposed to set an example to the public." She asked the court to sentence him to prison and a large fine.

Defense attorney Yehuda Dubnik told the court that his client will appeal. He said "assisting parents in managing property is a good deed and not a crime."



President Ezer Weizman kisses Sigal, a former heroin addict, at a conference held by the War on Drugs Authority yesterday at Beit Hanassi. Weizman called on the government to devote greater resources to the fight against drug abuse. Statistics presented at the party showed that 28 percent of university students have used marijuana or hashish and that an estimated 10 percent of the country's youth - 50,000 - use these drugs.

Victory reconciles Rabins, Weizmans

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Jordan's King Hussein and Spain's King Juan Carlos were among the many well-wishers from all over the world who congratulated President Ezer Weizman on his reelection yesterday.

In a spirit of reconciliation, congratulations came also from Leah

Rabin, widow of assassinated prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. The Rabin family had backed Likud MK Shaul Amur, charging that Weizman was not fit to continue as president since he had indirectly contributed to the atmosphere which led to Rabin's slaying.

But Leah Rabin indicated, in an Israeli Radio interview, that the

time had come to end the bad blood between the two families.

"[Weizman] had a difficult period now. It is over and I congratulate him," Rabin said. "I think the time has come to put things behind us."

In response, Weizman's wife, Reuma, said, "We have great respect for Rabin's memory. I personally shall remember to my dying day that black moment when he was assassinated. [Leah Rabin] went through a horrific tragedy. I don't know how I personally would have coped with such a trauma."

However, Beit Hanassi issued a statement that the president had not yet received a formal message of reconciliation from Rabin.

The president spent the first morning of his second term in office discussing methods of combating drug abuse and rehabilitating addicts with members of the National Council for the War on Drugs. He also attended the trial of the son of Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai.

Weizman later attended a ceremony at Mount Herzl for the fallen of Israel's wars whose burial place is unknown.

Teen's father: I consider my son a US citizen

By SAMAR ASSAD

The father of a teenage murder suspect from Maryland testified yesterday that he never tried to register his son as an Israeli citizen and that he always considered him a US citizen.

The testimony came during extradition hearings at Jerusalem District Court for the 17-year-old who has been indicted in the September slaying of an acquaintance, Alfred Tello Jr. in Montgomery County, Maryland.

The youth, whose name has been banned from publication, argues that his father is an Israeli citizen, and that the status was automatically passed on to him, which would mean that he cannot be sent abroad for trial.

The Justice Ministry has cast doubt on the father's citizenship and says that the youth can be sent to the United States.

Judge Moshe Ravid scheduled another session for March 17 to hear testimony from the youth's grandmother.

John McCarthy, a deputy state attorney from Maryland who has been attending the hearings, said he didn't expect a ruling before April.

The father was born in Mandatory Palestine in 1944. He and his family left Israel for the United States in 1950. He said that he and his three children made frequent visits to Israel but that the children traveled on US passports. He said that it never occurred to him to register his three children with the nearest Israeli consulate. "I considered my children to be American citizens," he told the court. (AP)

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**Plight of agunot decried as human rights violation**  
By MARILYN HENRY  
NEW YORK - The plight of the agunot constitutes discrimination against women and a violation of human rights, the International Council of Jewish Women said yesterday as the UN marked the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.  
Together with the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, the ICJW announced plans to launch the International Jewish Women's Human Rights Watch.  
The project, to be officially launched on Sunday, which is International Women's Day, will collect data from traditional public forums and venues, and make grass-roots efforts to seek out chained women, by placing posters in butcher shops and milkies in communities around the world.

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### Women for the future

Members of a new women's organization, Women Shaping the Future, hold a silent vigil in Jerusalem's Zion Square yesterday afternoon, in a bid to show 'that children should be able to walk safely in Jerusalem without fearing to be hurt or killed by a bombing,' according to founder Elana Rozenman. 'There are women here who are religious, non-religious, from the Left, from the Right - we're here to demonstrate unity, that we are not afraid to be here, that we are not afraid of terrorism, and it cannot defeat the women of this city.'

(Text: ELLI WOHLGELER; Photo: Kevin Unger)

## Ford sued over WWII slave labor

By MARLYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The Ford Motor Company "made enormous profits" by using thousands of forced laborers "under utterly barbarous conditions" during World War II at its military truck factory in Cologne, Germany, according to a lawsuit filed in a US federal court in New Jersey.

Attorney Melvyn Weiss of New York, who filed the suit in Newark on Wednesday, is asking that punitive damages and profits from the factory be distributed to surviving workers. The suit - filed on behalf of Elsa Iwanowa, a Russian woman living in Antwerp - contends that Ford's American management in Dearborn, Michigan, was aware of the forced labor.

Ford's founder, Henry Ford, was a prominent antisemite. Adolf Hitler decorated him in 1938 with the "Great Cross of the German Order of the Eagle."

Unlike many American properties, the Ford factory was not confiscated by Hitler. Instead, a German court appointed a Nazi custodian. The Cologne plant is Ford's biggest factory in Europe, producing some 350,000 cars a year.

Half of some 6,000 employees had been forced to work without pay in the last years of the war, the suit alleges.

Many workers who were "concentration camp inmates from Buchenwald, were laboring at Ford's Cologne plant under utterly barbarous conditions," it adds.

"Relieved of the necessity of paying wages," profits were doubled by 1943 and the factory eventually produced 60 percent of the 3-ton

tracked vehicles for the German forces, it adds.

"Forced laborers who failed to meet production quotas ... were beaten with rubber truncheons. Attempts to escape were met by execution or transfer to Buchenwald."

Ford corporate secretary John Rintamaki responded, in an interview with the BBC, that the Nazis "dictated what was going to be made, how it was going to be

made, what the labor force looked like, the working conditions and so forth."

Iwanowa, 72, was taken from Rostov, Russia, on October 6, 1942, to Germany with about 2,000 other children, the lawsuit says. Until 1945, she drilled holes into motor blocks of military trucks and did other heavy labor without pay, the lawsuit says. The children slept in triple bunks without bedding and got two meals a day.

## Lithuania puts off war crimes trial

By ELLI WOHLGELER

The trial of Nazi war criminal Aleksandras Lileikis was postponed by a Vilna court yesterday until May 18, to allow time to find additional witnesses, including a Jewish girl whom Lileikis is said to have saved.

Dr. Efraim Zuroff, director of the Israel office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, who spearheaded the international campaign to bring Lileikis to justice, said he was shocked and outraged over

the decision.

"Given the advanced age of the defendant, it is obvious that any lengthy delay in the proceedings significantly increases the chances of Lileikis escaping justice and only benefits those who seek, at all costs, to prevent such a trial from being held," Zuroff said, in a letter to Lithuanian Ambassador Romas Misiunas.

"Even if Lileikis did save a young Jewess, it in no way changes the basic facts of the case. Lileikis played a highly important

role in the German-Lithuanian administration of mass murder which carried out the annihilation of Lithuanian Jewry," Zuroff wrote.

Lileikis headed the notorious "Saugumas" (Lithuanian security police) in the Vilna district from 1941 to 1944, and played a very significant role in the murder of Lithuanian Jewry. During the Holocaust, more than 96 percent of the 220,000 Jews who lived in Lithuania were murdered, in many cases by Lithuanian collaborators.

## J'lem police stymied by four major cases

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Police in Jerusalem are stymied by four 1998 cases, including three murders and the case of one missing person, which remain unresolved despite intensive searches and the assigning of extra personnel to investigate.

The cases are:

• Wednesday, January 14: Hazzzi Koka, 45, head of the workers' committee at Channel 1, was found dead in his apartment in Pisgat Ze'ev, having been stabbed several times. His stolen car was found six days later in Ramallah by Palestinian police.

• Wednesday, February 11: David Kiorza, 40, was stabbed to death early in the morning in the Ramat Shlomo neighborhood in north Jerusalem, while on his way to morning prayers.

• Monday, February 23: Noa Eyal, 17, was found, raped and murdered in the wadi south of Ramot.

• Thursday, February 26: Menashe Dallal, 46, an accountant, was last seen at 8:45 leaving a meeting in Bayit Vegan.

Shmuel Ben-Ruby, spokesman for Jerusalem police, said yesterday that he could not disclose much regarding what leads police are following in each case, except to say the investigations are continuing in all of them.

He said that in the case of Koka, the court issued a gag order on publishing any details. But he confirmed reports that police are working under the assumption that the case involved a homosexual lover.

The court also restricted the publication of details in the case of Kiorza, he said, but added that "we think he was stabbed with a nationalistic motive," which means that police suspect that the perpetrator was an Arab. Seven full time investigators have been assigned to the case, Ben-Ruby said.

Seven full-time investigators aided by 40 others are working on the Eyal case, which police believe was a sexual/criminal case, and not a nationalistic one.

Police appealed to the public on Wednesday for help in the investigation. They said that anyone who may have seen something, particularly someone who saw Eyal waiting for a bus around midnight at David's Square in downtown Jerusalem, or if someone witnessed her getting into a car, to please call police.

As for the missing Dallal, Ben-Ruby said police are completely stymied.

"We searched for a few days in the whole area around Bayit Vegan, up until Beit Zayit, and other places, and we don't have any clue as to where he is."

## Would an ethical television network systematically distort the news about Israel?

# CNN does.

In reports beamed around the world, CNN regularly broadcasts error-ridden and biased accounts of events in Israel. Consider just two stories on Jerusalem:



ON JUNE 5, 1997, CNN correspondent Walter Rodgers declared that Israeli policies in Jerusalem are "further isolating the city's dwindling Arab

population." But Jerusalem's Arab population is far from dwindling—it is growing faster than the city's Jewish population. Indeed, since 1967 Jerusalem's Arab population has increased 163%, while the Jewish sector has only grown by 114%. These are facts, not opinions, based on census data. Did CNN issue a correction when provided documentation for this factual error? NO.

NOT LONG AFTER reporting the alleged decline of the Arab population of Jerusalem, Walter Rodgers informed viewers, on August 27, 1997, that as a consequence of Israeli policy Arabs are experiencing a "critical housing shortage in east Jerusalem." Aside from the obvious contradiction (a dwindling Arab community would be less crowded), CNN once again distorted the realities. There has been a boom in Arab housing construction in Jerusalem. Just as the Arab population has grown at a faster rate than the Jewish community of Jerusalem, Arab building also has outpaced Jewish building in the city since 1967. Did CNN clarify the facts in this important story? NO.

CNN, it seems, doesn't much care about the facts.

The same shoddiness and bias apparent in these reports are to be found virtually on a daily basis in the network's broadcasts about Israel.

The essentials of good journalism—fact-checking, equal time for all sides, accurate and balanced context for complex stories—are routinely ignored.

**CNN's global audience deserves better.  
Protest the bias. Call CNN at 404-827-1500.**

# CAMERA

CAMERA, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, is a non-denominational media-watch group that works to promote accurate and balanced coverage of Israel. CAMERA believes only full and factual reporting on the complex Middle East conflict serves the cause of peace. For information about CAMERA, write: P.O. Box 428, Boston, MA 02258, or send e-mail to media@camera.org

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## Chinese take-away

Anyone like a free plot for a novel? The last governor of the famous British colony of Hong Kong refuses to provide to write his memoirs. The governor's manuscript spells out the human rights abuses and totalitarian machinations that are inherent in Chinese communist rule, and expresses grave fears for the future of his former bailiwick.

A once-respected British publisher has contracted to handle the memoirs – a guaranteed non-fiction best-seller if ever there was one.

Unfortunately, the publisher is now owned by an Australian media monster, Mr. Big, who is in the middle of negotiating some juicy media contracts in China. Mr. Big blows his top when he hears of the contents of the ex-governor's book and orders Mr. Wimp the publisher to can it.

Mr. Wimp puts out a press release saying the governor's efforts did not inspire him from a commercial point of view and he would not, after all, be publishing the book. Well there's the start of the plot – but don't expect us to do all the work. But when you've written it, a word of advice – do not offer it to HarperCollins.

### Tea and tweed

All the best plots have been taken by real life and in real life, this is a sinister one indeed.

The villain of the piece is Rupert Murdoch, who has replaced his late rival Robert Maxwell as the man who wants to dumb down the world, rather than conquer it. Chris Patten is the former Hong Kong governor, and "Mr. Wimp" is a generic term for HarperCollins management.

The furor has guaranteed that Patten's book, *East and West*, will win the Salman Rushdie Prize for Advance Publicity. This will delight the still-respected Macmillan publishing house which has snapped it up – a bargain Chinese take-away.

The *New York Times* this week rather charmingly titled its editorial on the book scandal "Murdoch's villainy." However, this is not some charming little British scandal in a teacup featuring colonial governors, doddering old publishers in tweeds, and Buggins of the Foreign Office and the press-baron chappie sorting it all out with a raised eyebrow at the club.

This is a modern media predator, in league with totalitarianism, attempting to impose censorship to win favors. It is a scandal that already is out of the HarperCollins teacup, into Parliament, rumbling beneath the publishing industry, rattling Murdoch-owned newsrooms, and crossing the Atlantic to outrage legislators in the Land of Free Speech.

### Star coverage

Just as worrying as Murdoch's contemptible effort to silence Chris Patten for Beijing is the latest evidence of China using its new economic clout to export some of its contemptible domestic repression of free speech.

Nor is it Murdoch's first outrage against the free flow of ideas. In 1994 he stopped the BBC from broadcasting its news

service on his Far East satellite station, Star TV – because the Chinese objected to those famous and fearless (but inconvenient) BBC reports soiling its airwaves.

Murdoch's media joint-ventures with the Chinese in newspapers, television, and publishing mysteriously blossomed after the BBC was dumped. HarperCollins even courageously published *My Father*, a drooling catalog of Deng Xiaoping's greatness, by Deng Rong (his daughter). Curious – Maxwell in the 1980s used to publish treacherous hagiographies of Eastern European dictators.

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

HarperCollins is paying dearly already for its two blunders – first canceling the Patten book contract, and then lying about the reason. As this went to press, chairman Eddie Bell was said to be depressed and about to quit. Murdoch characteristically blamed HarperCollins executives "for screwing up" the public relations aspect of

dumping Patten's book. "In other words, they used the wrong aerosol to mask Murdoch's rotten maneuver," a British publishing source told us.

In February, Stuart Proffitt, one of the most senior and respected HarperCollins editors, told journalists that Patten's manuscript was "one of the most lucid and intelligent" books he had seen from a politician, and that it was a guaranteed best-seller.

### Profit-free zone

Oh dear – what doth it Proffitt a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul? Proffitt was ordered by his bosses to tell Patten the opposite – that his book was feeble and a commercial turkey. He refused and was suspended. This is British-fried publishing, Chinese style.

The plot continues to expand and thicken far beyond the bounds of what this short column can report. There are associated scandals – like the position of the also-once-great *London Times* (Murdoch's) on the book scandal (what book scandal?) and indeed on China coverage as a whole. (China? Is that Limoges or Staffordshire?) There is a brewing revolt of best-selling authors loyal to editor Proffitt and disgusted by HarperCollins cowardice. They are threatening to go elsewhere, and include Jung Chang, who wrote the immense best-seller, *Wild Swans*.

Jonathan Mirsky, former East Asia editor of *The Times* and one of journalism's top experts on China, has been saying the Murdoch media's subservience to China is "lowering ourselves in our own toilet." Mirsky recalls that when Murdoch was interviewed about why he got rid of the BBC in Hong Kong, and why he sold the *South China Morning Post* he said: "I didn't see why I should be in charge of things that made the leaders of China angry when they are people with whom I wish to do business."

It can't be plainer than that – suppression of truth is on sale now. We may live to raise temples to the Internet for arriving just in time to undermine any more megalomania. For lots about this scandal, see the web site at [www.oranipotent.com](http://www.oranipotent.com)

## N. Ireland killings spur peace effort

BELFAST (Reuters) – Northern Ireland's peace drive gathered new momentum yesterday after the murder of two lifelong friends from across the religious divide appeared to push politicians into compromise.

Media reports said that nearly all parties involved in Anglo-Irish led peace talks had agreed on draft proposals for a new assembly for Northern Ireland.

Only Sinn Fein, which is temporarily barred from the negotiations because its Irish Republican Army terrorist wing has been linked to two recent murders, had not agreed, the reports said.

Although British officials at the peace talks could not immediately confirm the reports, they were upbeat about the prospects for an agreement.

"There is the feeling among the political parties that the time has come to finalize a deal," Political Affairs Minister for Northern

Ireland Paul Murphy said in a speech on Wednesday night.

Further signs of progress came in a poll for the BBC, which said three-quarters of Catholic nationalists in Northern Ireland are prepared to accept less than the united Ireland their political leaders have striven for.

Even among supporters of Sinn Fein, the most hard-line republicans in the talks, just over half are willing to accept compromise.

The poll also showed that more Protestants support comparative moderate David Trimble than his more strident fellow "loyalist" leader Ian Paisley, who is fierce in his opposition to any concessions to Catholics.

The poll of 1,613 people was carried out before the murders on Tuesday night of Damian Trainor and Philip Allen, a Catholic and a Protestant who were lifelong friends in the face of Northern Ireland's sectarian

divide. They were shot dead by masked gunmen as they sat in a village bar and discussed Allen's marriage plans for this summer. Trainor was to have been his best man.

The killings were blamed on the Loyalist Volunteer Force, a Protestant extremist group opposed to the peace process.

Both Protestant and Catholic leaders travelled to the murder scene, the rural village of Poyntzpass, to condemn the killings and console bereaved relatives. The village, where Catholics and Protestants live peacefully side by side, was visibly stunned by the murders in its midst.

Trimble said he was ashamed to think the killers were probably Protestant.

The BBC poll showed 82 percent of those questioned believe that Protestant and Catholic terrorists who oppose the peace process could derail any chances of agreement. Such groups have killed nearly 20

people in a spate of attacks since Christmas. A 29-year-old Protestant woman and her three-year-old daughter were wounded late Wednesday night when gunmen fired into the door of their home in Antrim, northwest of Belfast.

The woman's partner is a Catholic, but police said they did not know whether there was a sectarian link to the attack.

Despite the continuing violence, Britain appears confident the peace talks can achieve an agreement by the May deadline it has set. The settlement is then due to be put to people across Ireland in referendums.

Media reports said the proposed power-sharing assembly would have six committees to run government departments under the rule of Britain's Northern Ireland office.

The parties at the talks are also discussing possible "cross-border" bodies, which would increase cooperation and contact between the North and South of Ireland.

## 'Mirror': Diana wanted more for godchildren

LONDON (Reuters) – Britain's *Mirror* newspaper yesterday accused the executors of Princess Diana's will of "fobbing off" her 17 godchildren with a few trinkets in her amended will, ignoring her wish that they should receive one-fourth of her private belongings.

The tabloid daily said the late princess had asked for a quarter of all her "chattels" – private belongings such as clothes, pictures, and china – to be given to her godchildren, with the rest going to her two sons, Princes William and Harry.

Diana, who died in a Paris car crash last August 31, made the request in a "letter of wishes" which was dated the same day that she signed her original will, June 1, 1993, and kept together with it, the *Mirror* said.

But lawyers acting for Diana's estate said the letter was invalid for technical reasons, which cleared the way for the executors of the will to ignore it even as they said they were altering her will posthumously to reflect her wishes, the paper said.

Instead, the executors deemed that each of the 17 godchildren should be able to choose a keepsake from among certain of Diana's possessions, such as a piece of crockery, a carriage clock, or water-color painting.

The godchildren come from a variety of backgrounds and include the children of friends, such as *London Sunday Telegraph* editor Dominic Lawson and his wife, Rosa Monckton, who runs the Tiffany's jewellery store.

"The youngsters have effectively been deprived of their share of Diana's dresses, furniture, pictures, silver and china," the *Mirror* said in a front-page story, then asked in an editorial why "her godchildren were fobbed off

with a few trinkets." The *Mirror* did not say how it learned the contents of Diana's "letter of wishes," which was not mentioned on Monday when her will was made public. A spokesman for Martyn Gower, a lawyer acting for the estate, did not return phone calls.

But on Monday, when Diana's will was published, Gower said that it had been amended to provide the flexibility needed to ensure the godchildren and Diana's butler, who receives 50,000 pounds, would benefit.

After taxes, the will left 13 million pounds to be divided among the beneficiaries, and the bulk of the bequest is to be held in trust for Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry, 13.

Legal experts say amendments to wills are not uncommon, provided all the beneficiaries agree. Last December, at the behest of former prime minister John Major, who is acting as guardian for Princes William and Harry, lawyers obtained a court order that allowed the will to be altered posthumously to reflect Diana's wishes.

In an editorial, the *Mirror* was especially critical of the Spencer family into which Diana was born. It said Diana's mother and sister were among the executors of the will, and speculated that some of the possessions Diana had intended for her godchildren would probably end up in a Diana museum on the family estate in central England.

"And those who wish to view them will be charged 10 pounds a head by her brother [Earl Spencer]," the paper charged.

A spokeswoman for the Spencer family declined comment. "We do not respond to anything that is in the *Mirror*," she said.



### Remembering Stalin

A Georgian man holds a portrait of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin during a wreath-laying ceremony yesterday marking the 45th anniversary of his death. The ceremony took place in Gori, Stalin's birthplace, 60 kilometers northwest of Tbilisi. (AP)

## Puerto Ricans cautiously greet chance to become 51st state

By JAMES ANDERSON

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) – Puerto Ricans cautiously welcomed a move by the US Congress to allow them a chance to decide their future ties with the United States.

"I think it's a good thing we'll finally see something cleared up," said Tomas Andreas Maltes, 50, who watched a broadcast of Wednesday's daylong debate in the House of Representatives on the island's status.

After more than 11 hours of debate, the House voted 209-208 to hold a referendum in Puerto Rico this year offering three choices: continued commonwealth status, statehood, or independence.

Spain governed Puerto Rico for more than four centuries before the US seized it in 1898. Puerto Ricans were made US citizens in 1917 and achieved limited self-governance as a US commonwealth in 1952. They

may serve in the US armed forces, but cannot vote for president, pay no federal income taxes, and send one non-voting delegate to Congress.

Wednesday's vote responded to a plea by the Puerto Rican legislature for the "rapid decolonization" of the Caribbean island.

A local plebiscite in 1993 had 48 percent voting for a commonwealth, 46% for statehood and less than 5% for independence.

Puerto Rican radio and TV stations devoted all day to the debate. But despite the potentially high stakes, many residents were less than excited, and the broadcasts ended promptly with the late-hour vote.

That could change if the Senate approves the legislation, which President Bill Clinton supports. Senate Republican leader Trent Lott, however, has said the Senate is unlikely to get to it in time for a referendum this year.

"There's nothing we can do about it now.

We don't have a say," said Crucita Cristian, a retired claims adjuster. "Now if it comes down for a vote here, I can tell you people will be out here waving flags."

Puerto Rico's congressional delegate, pro-statehooder Carlos Romero Barcelo, was ecstatic after the House vote. "It was a triumph against all the forces of the extreme right," he said.

Several obstacles lie ahead. The pro-commonwealth Popular Democratic Party has vowed to boycott a plebiscite because it contends the bill favors statehood.

The legislation calls for Congress to approve the results of any vote in Puerto Rico in a transition process that would last 10 years. A majority vote by Puerto Ricans is required – something not achieved in the 1993 balloting.

Two-thirds of Puerto Rico's residents receive some form of welfare and the average income is half that of Mississippi, the

poorest state. Statehood advocates note that Puerto Rico, which receives roughly \$10 billion in US spending a year, could get \$4 billion more as a state. Some states, such as Tennessee, could lose congressional seats to accommodate Puerto Rico, which could gain up to six in the House and two in the Senate.

Many Puerto Ricans believe that attempts in Congress to force the island to conduct its business in English will fail. While both Spanish and English are official languages here, less than one-quarter of Puerto Rico's 3.8 million people are bilingual.

For decades after the US seized Puerto Rico, English was the only language used in Puerto Rican schools. The policy was dropped as a failure in 1949.

"Puerto Rico is a Caribbean country, a Latin country, and this is part of our heritage. It doesn't matter what flag is flying over us," said Emiliano Cristian Benitez, a retired government employee.

## Japan arrests two top finance officials

TOKYO (Reuters) – Japanese prosecutors arrested two top Ministry of Finance officials yesterday, taking a broad probe of alleged bribery into the highest reaches of Japan's government elite.

The announcement that two top financial bureaucrats allegedly took bribes from two brokerages and a major bank caused the dollar to rise against the yen as the running of the

world's second-largest economy came under harsh scrutiny.

The allegations concerned lavish winning and dining in Paris restaurants and golf games in return for inside information on regulatory moves and favorable treatment for new products.

A Tokyo prosecutor's statement said the officials arrested are Takashi Sakakibara, 38, a deputy section chief at the Ministry of Finance (MOF) Securities Bureau, and Toshio Miyano, 51, a former MOF official and currently a senior inspector on securities transactions at the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission (SESC), a watchdog body.

Sakakibara is no relation of "Mr. Yen," influential MOF official Eisuke Sakakibara, the vice finance minister for international affairs.

Rumors swirled in the Japanese media of further shocks on the horizon over the corruption scandal that could involve other top MOF bureaucrats and officials from the country's central bank being implicated.

Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga, on the job for just a month, told parliament the arrests showed a review is needed of how the country's most powerful min-

istry operates.

"Essentially, it is mainly a problem of individuals lacking the requisite ethical standards required of a public servant," he said.

Takashi Sakakibara was allegedly entertained by Nomura Securities Co. Ltd. between 1993 and 1995 at Paris restaurants and on golf courses to the tune of 1.39 million yen (\$10,900). He in turn expedited ministry approval for the launch of Nomura's new financial products.

He is also suspected of accepting expensive meals from Nikko Securities and Sumitomo Bank in exchange for favorable treatment in product approvals and leaking information on planned regulatory revisions.

The arrests are the latest to hit the beleaguered ministry, and Takashi Sakakibara, a "career" bureaucrat on the ministry's fast-track career path, is the highest-ranking MOF official so far implicated in the spreading corruption scandal.

MOF was first hit by scandal in January, when two inspectors were arrested for accepting entertainment and other favors from bank officials whose main job was to wine and dine them in return for confidential information.

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patron of the arts, preserver of the art  
of the Holocaust

and offers sincere condolences to  
**Mrs. Ghez and the family**

The family and Kehillat Mevakesh Derech invite all  
who wish to honor the memory of

**Rabbi ABRAHAM EZRA MILLGRAM**

to a memorial service, following the conclusion of the  
shloshim, at 22 Shai Agnon Blvd., on Tuesday,  
March 10, at 8:30 p.m.

**RENÉE HERTZBERGER-VAN ADELSBERG**

is no more.

The funeral will take place today, Friday, March 6, 1998  
at 10:30 a.m. at the Herzliya Cemetery.

Miriam (Hertzberger) and Tsvi Nadav  
Yifat and Ariel  
Tsiwia (Hertzberger) and Chanan Tauber  
Amir, El'ad and Yael

150/211



# George Bush Junior for president

Now that we have our own president, we can turn our attention to the really important elections — for the president of the US.

Even if the Lewinsky affair sinks to the bottom of the pile of inextricable intrigue in the American capital, Bill Clinton's debatable reputation will have sullied Al Gore's election campaign. Perhaps this is what lies behind the next scandal threatening to explode on Capitol Hill, a scandal which may actually tarnish the opposition Republican Party in its attempts to find a candidate who has a chance of beating the Democratic vice president — and restoring its supremacy in the White House, following George Bush's defeat.

And this is the story. Two weeks ago, a brilliant, 28-year-old journalist committed suicide in Washington after having exposed a plot against House Speaker Newt Gingrich in his own party.

The story goes that the reason for the suicide was an affair the journalist had with none other than the leader of the plot, a senior Republican, confirmed supporter of Israel, who championed family values in true Republican style.

It is possible that the discovery, which has not yet hit the headlines, is the result of a Democratic investigation aimed at overshadowing "Monicagate." It is also possible

that the story is actually being spread by opponents of the senior politician from within his own party. In any event, the man has announced his decision to withdraw from the race for the presidency and retire from political life.

Nevertheless, even if the scandals in Washington cast a shadow over the intrigues of the presidential race in Israel, the real struggle will soon begin there for the 2000 elections. The leading Democratic candidate is well known and familiar. He is vigorously wooing the Jewish vote, particularly the Jewish pocket, but despite his pro-Israel record, we should not expect him to be any different from the incumbent president in his attitude towards Jerusalem.

However, whereas Clinton succeeded, not least thanks to his charisma and charm, Gore will attempt to project his serious, balanced side. He and his advisers are relying on the assumption that the American people are tired of Clinton's wayward image. Despite his successes in the economy and on the home front, he has not managed to win their trust.

In Washington, Gore has been described as "someone who talks like [former secretary of state Warren] Christopher looks." This is not a particularly complimentary distinction for a young politician

with a career such as his. However, it could be that when Monica is in the headlines, this is the image to sell.

The more colorful character actually represents the Republicans. As it seems now, two years before the end of the race, the leading candidate is the governor of Texas, George Bush Jr., son of the president who made Yitzhak Shamir's life particularly difficult during his term as prime minister.

Meanwhile, Bush Jr. does not seem to be the bearer of a particularly supportive approach toward Israel. For three years Jewish organizations have been trying, unsuccessfully, to arrange for him to visit Israel. The Jews have not yet managed to find an heir to take over from Max Fisher, their uncrowned king in the Republican ranks. Fisher, may he live till 120, has entered his 10th decade; he is begging for a successor. The Jewish community in Texas may have some wealthy members who are close to Bush, but the fact is that they have not managed to bring him closer to Israel.

Names such as Ronald Lander of cosmetics fame, a personal friend of our prime minister, and Leslie Wexner have been raised as a possible replacement for the aged Fisher. In the meantime, however,

## AGENDA

By ANNOHAN BAR-ROSE

Israel should not neglect former secretary of defense Paul Wolfowitz, a true friend of Israel who remained loyal to his party during its years in opposition and is now being listed as the leading candidate for the post of secretary of state or defense in the event of a Republican comeback.

## Caution — on her majesty's behalf

This week our prime minister was credited with another achievement. He managed to deter the White House from publishing an American plan which had all the signs of an imposed solution. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations closed ranks in support of Netanyahu, Congress flexed its muscles, and Clinton, who is justifiably sensitive to the political future of his loyal deputy, decided to reconsider the political repercussions of presenting a unilateral plan.

After the Moscow summit at the beginning of 1997, which estab-

lished the multilateral committees (after Madrid), when George Bush embarked on his election campaign, the administration was in a similar position. While Shamir was prime minister and the White House had marked him as an obstacle to peace and sought to replace him, Washington displayed a hard line toward Israel. After Rabin's victory, when Bush felt free to go after the Jewish vote, the administration refrained from openly attacking Israel.

A similar policy was adopted during Clinton's early days as president, even though the US was furious at some of the steps taken then, such as expelling more than 400 Hamas activists and Operation Accountability, which resulted in thousands of refugees from southern Lebanon fleeing north.

In those days, Israel was punished by the administration signaling to its closest allies, first and foremost Canada, that Jerusalem was out of favor in Washington. "Due to the election campaign, we are unable to act against Israel right now, but you may need the Israelis as much as you wish," the Americans hinted.

During that period, the Committee on Refugees was chaired by Mark Peron, and this committee dealt with the most sensitive issue in the discussions

with the Palestinians from Israel's perspective — the right of return. Peron would not make a move without receiving instructions from Washington.

Before every meeting, before every visit, he would consult with senior members of the administration, who, despite their basic support for Israel, believed that there was no alternative to forcing Israel's hand in order to promote the peace process. The result was a demand to increase the quota of families that could be united and a commitment to increase the number of refugees allowed to return to the territories.

Totally uncoincidentally, at this moment too, it would appear that Europe is embarking on a move to pressure Jerusalem. The tone is no longer set by the Germans, who sought to focus on the expansion of NATO and Eastern European issues, but by the French and Italians, who wish to focus on solving the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The US administration is not pleased by this involvement, as it is concerned that the situation may become uncontrollable. Canada's position as the US's closest ally following the Gulf War is being taken over by England. Washington can get on with the British. They are closer allies, due to their cooperation during the

Iraqi crisis and to the special friendship between Tony Blair and Clinton.

In addition to Netanyahu's visit to London this weekend, next week British Foreign Secretary Robin Cooke is expected to visit us and in a month and a half Blair is due to arrive here. Despite certain leaks in Jerusalem aimed at signaling to the Americans that they have a substitute in Europe, the trend is quite the reverse. American pressure may be replaced by some form of controlled European pressure via London.

Netanyahu may have led a successful move in Washington this week when he managed to delay presentation of the White House plan, with the help of the Jews and by a hasty act of propaganda vis-a-vis the American media, however the last word has not yet been said. Due to the weakness of Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who despite the words of encouragement which he quotes from Jerusalem has not managed to penetrate the corridors of power in Washington, no vigorous activity is taking place to soften the administration. The results may arrive indirectly — via her British majesty.

See AGENDA, Page 22

## Where to stay in Israel

### ARAVA — RED SEA VALLEY

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## A model decision

This week revealed the culminations of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's decision-making process at its best and worst. The dual appointment of Ephraim Halevy and Amiram Levine as chief and deputy chief of the Mossad is being hailed as just what the troubled agency needed to set it back on the right track. On the other hand, the choice of Shaul Amor to run against President Ezer Weizman was a classic triumph of crass politics over substance, which has unfortunately typified Netanyahu's appointments to date.

This time the process seems to have worked — because Netanyahu decided to go by the book rather than by his instincts. Repeatedly, his first instinct was to appoint Levine, currently OC Northern Command, to replace outgoing Mossad chief Danny Yatom. This would not have been a political choice, but it might have been seen as dominated by Netanyahu's personal relationship with his former direct commander in the Sayeret Matkal, the General Staff commando unit.

Levine as Mossad chief would have fit the bill of bringing in someone from the outside with proven operational and leadership experience. But operations in the somewhat anarchic sphere of Lebanon and in the more sensitive context of the Mossad are two different animals.

Accordingly, after Netanyahu consulted widely within the government, among former Mossad chiefs and its current top echelon, and even with opposition leader Ehud Barak, the choice of Ephraim Halevy emerged. Halevy, as a 35-year Mossad veteran and current ambassador to the European Union, is both an insider and an outsider. His specialty was liaison work with foreign intelligence services and secret diplomacy with countries that did not have formal relations with Israel.

In this latter capacity, he was deeply involved in paving the way for the peace treaty with Jordan and was recently called in by Netanyahu to secure the release of Mossad agents caught during the Mashaal fiasco. Halevy, therefore, is an ideal choice to renew the intelligence relationship with Jordan that collapsed as a result of the Mashaal Affair, and his appointment has reportedly been welcomed in Amman. As a senior Mossad veteran who rose to the level of deputy chief, he will add a voice of experience

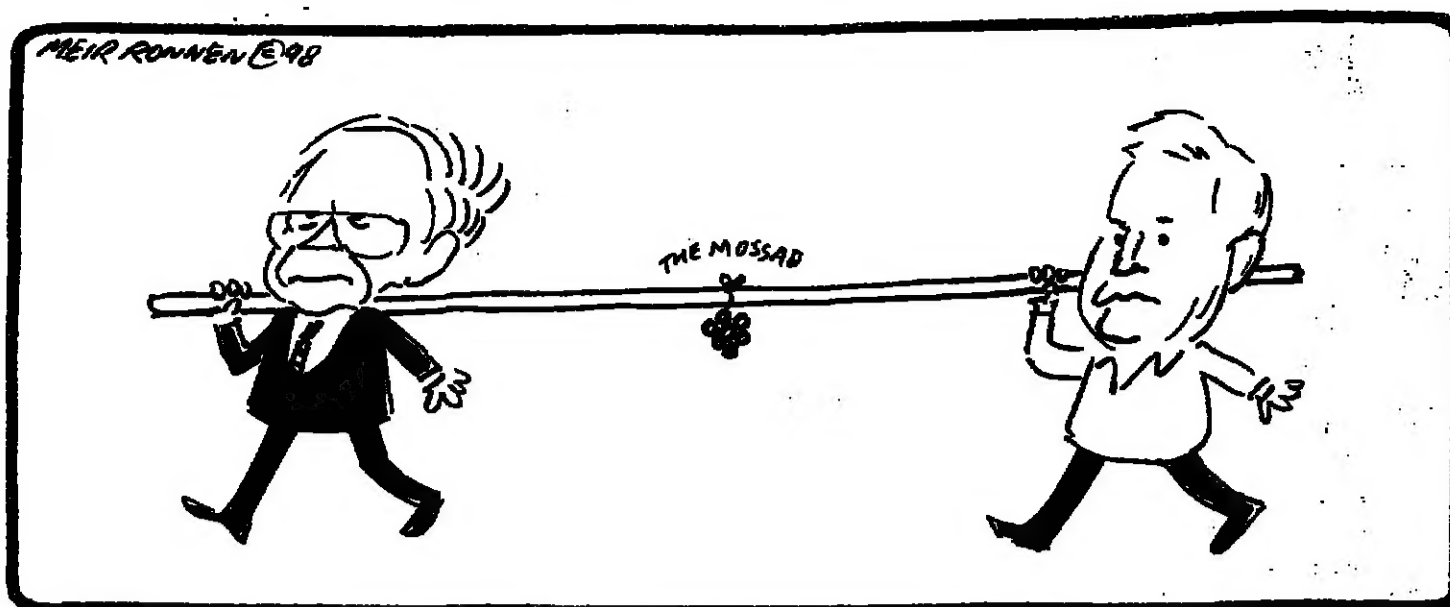
above the current group of department heads, most of whom have served less than two years in their current jobs.

By combining Halevy and Levine, Netanyahu has brought together just the kind of stature, experience, and outside perspective that the Mossad needs to recover from its recent stumbles in Switzerland and Jordan. Netanyahu gave the new pair a proper objective, saying their first mission will be to implement the recommendations of the Ciechanover Commission and the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee following the Mashaal debacle. In contrast with his previous propensity for run-ins with the security establishment, Netanyahu went out of his way to praise the Mossad staff. And he also announced he would shortly implement the Ciechanover Report's recommendation to appoint an intelligence adviser in the Prime Minister's Office.

The question is whether the textbook — in the best sense — appointment process exhibited in this case means that Netanyahu has turned over a new leaf. Coming on the heels of the embarrassingly political choice of Shaul Amor to run for president, it is certainly too soon to know whether Netanyahu has learned that making appointments on a substantive basis is not only the right thing to do, but has a positive political payoff.

Netanyahu need not wait for other senior positions to become vacant to demonstrate that this prominent case of proper decision-making is not a fluke. The model of employing wide and serious consultations can be duplicated regarding decisions in other critical arenas, such as the peace process and the economy. These other areas may not enjoy as much consensus as the criteria for new leadership in the Mossad, but the need for professionalism in decision-making is just as great.

The economy, like the Mossad, needs a shot in the arm from another insider-outsider team — people who combine prestige and experience with a fresh approach and not being captive to the very institutions that most need fixing. With the Mossad appointments, Netanyahu learned there is no shame, and some benefit, in admitting that no one can do everything for themselves. This lesson should be applied to other, no less important, challenges facing the nation.



## Counter-productive bridge

I wasn't angry with the US administration when it left Israel off the list of 20 countries that had identified with its policy in the Gulf crisis. The administration is entitled to choose its supporters. Israel didn't want to make a declaration of support, and had no obligation to do so. In any case, the Arabs accused Israel of pressing for war.

On the other hand, I was very sorry at the results of the crisis. Not because I'm a warmonger or because I wanted to see the US strike a blow at Iraq, but because of the damage to the basis on which the peace process rests — the US's ability to make a decisive response to anyone threatening the stability of the region.

At the end of the 1991 war, secretary of state James Baker could tell Hanan Ashrawi that if the PLO insisted on preventing Palestinians from taking part in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, the US would double the amount of the loan guarantees it was giving Israel for absorbing immigration, and what was more, it wouldn't oppose a 100 percent increase in the settlements. But Secretary of State Madeleine Albright doesn't dare talk like that to the Palestinians.

On the contrary, the Palestinian Authority announced at the beginning of this week that the talks with Israel had failed and are serving no purpose.

In fact they continued all week to negotiate with the Israelis under the auspices of US Ambassador Edward Walker. This statement was intended to create leverage on the US to make its own proposals on the extent of the IDF withdrawal, which would force its "verdict"

MOSHE ZAK

on Israel simply by being announced.

BEFORE the Madrid conference, the Palestinians couldn't twist Washington's arm. The US was at the peak of its power and influence. The USSR was on the verge of collapse, France had no allies to help it block American influence, and the Arab countries were in shock. For years they had been under the illusion that the trauma of Vietnam would prevent the US from taking a firm stand alongside its allies in the Middle East in their time of trouble.

breaks the agreements. The Arabs interpret the result of the crisis differently: They welcome the open rift between the US and Great Britain, on the one hand, and Russia, France and China on the other.

THE Arabs believe that they can return to the bargaining position that they occupied during the Cold War, when they manipulated the permanent members of the Security Council against one another. So the peace process will lose the momentum that it gained at the Madrid conference.

**As soon as a US proposal is announced, it will become a minimum plan from which the Palestinians will refuse to retreat**

The American military response to the invasion of Kuwait changed the US image in the eyes of the Arab countries, and freed some of those countries from fear of joining the anti-Saddam coalition. But in the recent crisis, the position was reversed. The US was seen by the Arabs as hesitant, isolated in the UN, and bogged down in internal scandals. So even countries threatened by Saddam, like Saudi Arabia and the Gulf emirates, didn't take a public stand against the Iraqi challenge.

The Clinton administration has proclaimed its satisfaction at the results of the crisis, and interprets the deal worked out by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Security Council resolution as a warning to Iraq that the US can employ force if Saddam

After the American victory in the Gulf War, president George Bush could talk of territorial compromise between Israel and its neighbors in spite of Arab protests. But now the Palestinians are trying to maneuver the Americans into embracing a position that will frustrate any meaningful territorial compromise in the future. Too large a Palestinian share in the disputed territory is liable to block any chance of a compromise in the later stages of the negotiations.

Washington was quick to deny the report that it intends to make its own proposal for a settlement. But this is merely a semantic exercise. The plan that the administration wants to propose to the two sides is called a "bridging proposal," a "take it or leave it" offer

concerning the extent of the IDF withdrawal. In theory, it's an offer to both sides, but as soon as the proposal is announced, it will become a minimum plan from which the Palestinians will refuse to retreat. And it's much more than Israel offered to the Palestinians.

The bridging proposal is counter-productive, as it rocks the basis of the present peace process of bilateral direct negotiations. But the Arabs, who want to rock the foundations of the diplomatic process, are lobbying the Americans to propose their own "compromises." On the face of it, this is an innocent request, but in fact it's a maneuver to completely destroy the foundation on which American policy in the region is based — the decisive American victory seven years ago.

To strengthen this ambition, the Arabs have repeatedly emphasized the American setback in the present crisis, and some Arab politicians and journalists have made the foolish accusation that it was Jewish officials in Washington who pushed the US to the brink of war.

The truth is completely different. Those officials who are blamed by the Arabs are in fact weakening the American position by preparing a "bridging proposal" to appease the Palestinians.

True, the US feels obliged to repay Great Britain for its firm support during the crisis, but this should not be at the expense of Israel. In the final analysis, it will be interpreted by the Arabs as weakening the American position and thus will undermine the peace process.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FRIENDLY VIPERS

Sir, — I look forward each week to the Uri Dan-Dennis Eisenberg column, for the fun it provides the readers of your otherwise serious newspaper.

These gentlemen seem however to have outdone themselves in their Mar. 5 column. Are our Israeli friends, for whom Paris and France are the No. 1 destination at holiday time, aware that they are actually visiting "a nest of snakes"? Allow me to suggest that vipers, on this occasion, are not where they are said to be.

AMBASSADOR JEAN-NOEL DE BOUILLANE DE LACOSTE  
The French Embassy  
Tel Aviv.

### DEJA VU

Sir, — I was a child in London when Neville Chamberlain returned from Munich, waving a piece of paper and declaring "Peace in our time." A year later there was a World War.

The photos of the UN Secretary-General look horribly familiar. I hope I am wrong.

DORRIS HASSON  
Haifa.

### ENOUGH ALREADY

Sir, — Please! No more Bernard Wasserstein! I really don't care whether he was talking about Arabs, Jews, or Bosnians ("The killing season," Feb. 23).

By calling grieving wives and mothers "keening or ululating hags," he has put himself beyond the bounds of human decency.

QUEENE PARNES  
Jerusalem.

### THE LION AND THE LAMB

Sir, — Ephraim Sneh stated (Feb. 12) that the text of the Oslo and Paris agreements with the PLO implies the division of the country "into two states: Israel and a demilitarized Palestinian state."

There is no basis for the assertion that the agreements imply the existence of a Palestinian state. Joel Singer, the attorney designated by the Rabin/Peres government to handle the drafting of the agreements, has stated without equivocation that the declaration of a Palestinian state would "be a material breach and a ground for terminating the agreement."

Moreover, the requirement noted by Mr. Sneh, that the Palestinian state be a demilitarized one, completely disqualifies the present PLO regime as a candidate. Beyond question, the PLO is today so heavily armed that both IDF and Israeli intelligence sources believe that Israel would sustain between

200 and 2,000 casualties if it were to attempt to defang the PLO army.

Aside from the personnel carriers and assault rifles which Mr. Rabin gratuitously conferred upon the PLO, it should be born in mind that the PLO has at its disposal, parked elsewhere, an assortment of T55 and improved T54 Russian tanks, howitzers, field guns, mortars and anti-tank and aircraft missiles, much of which has been smuggled into Gaza via 17 or more tunnels from the Egyptian side.

The Likud government is presently engaged in negotiations for a PLO airport and a seaport, both of which will make it much easier for the PLO import of arms. Mr. Netanyahu seems to have forgotten that when the lion and the lamb lie down together, only the lion gets up the next morning.

IRVIN E. SCHERMER  
Jerusalem.

### AMERICAN RETIREES

Sir, — We urge all US citizens in Israel to join the current worldwide campaign to get the US Congress to pass H.R. 2549, which would modify the Windfall Elimination Provision, Provision 113 of the 1983 Social Security Amendments. The bill, if it becomes law, would exempt all with a non-covered pension under \$2,000 monthly from falling under the WEP.

Although pensioners residing abroad who are entitled to a meager foreign pension were not supposed to be impacted, they inadvertently have been. The WEP was intended for only those with a SUBSTANTIAL non-covered pension to prevent them from having two FULL pensions from US employment. US pensioners abroad currently have their very

small social security reduced up to half if they have any kind of foreign pension.

We urge all Americans in Israel to write letters of thanks and full support for H.R. 2549 to its three co-sponsors: Rep. James P. Moran Jr., [214 Longworth H.O.B.]; Rep. William Jefferson, 240 Cannon H.O.B.; and Rep. Barney Frank, 2210 Rayburn H.O.B., Washington, DC 20515. It would be good if interested supporters also write their representatives in both House and Senate. Your letters ought to state why you want this bill passed into law. For further information please call: (08) 945-7671, Sun.-Thur. 9-7 p.m.

DAVID FROELICH  
Rehovot.

## Netanyahu's rising stock

GERALD M. STEINBERG

During the recent round of the Iraqi crisis, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu confounded his critics. He managed the complex decision-making process, warning Iraq of the devastating consequences of an attack, while also lowering the level of tension and pressure within the country. In this difficult balancing act, Netanyahu earned the respect of many Israelis and also of key officials in the US government.

The situation was a difficult one for any national leader. Despite the memories of the missile attacks in 1991, and a desire to even the score, Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai stated repeatedly that Israel was not a party to the current dispute.

This position became more difficult to sustain following a statement from the chief UN arms inspector in Iraq, Richard Butler, on the threat posed to Tel Aviv by Iraqi biological weapons. Butler's offhand comments and the additional dramatic statements by US Secretary of Defense William Cohen regarding Iraq's biological warfare capabilities set off a wave of panic in Israel.

Netanyahu and Mordechai acted responsibly to calm the symptoms of post-traumatic stress remaining from the 1991 Gulf War. The probability that Iraq has both the capability and the intention of attacking Israel remains very low, but before the 1991 war, similar statements were made about Iraq's ability to launch missiles. In such circumstances, the government decided that this time, the best policy was to keep a low profile.

When that strategy proved unsuccessful and the public demanded a response from the government, Netanyahu and Mordechai adapted quickly. They ordered the rapid acquisition and distribution of gas masks, and

"allies" and "partners," also boosted Netanyahu's standing in Washington. The Saudis refused to give the US the right to use the military bases that the Americans had built and supplied, and Egypt joined France and Russia in supporting Saddam Hussein. President Hosni Mubarak also exploited the crisis for anti-Israeli propaganda, which did not help in building confidence.

Yasser Arafat and the heads of Fatah allowed and, in some cases organized, pro-Saddam demonstrations, and then punished the

**He has emerged from the Gulf crisis with increased stature and power, as reflected in the discussions regarding the next move in the negotiations with the Palestinians**

attack. Netanyahu, who was deputy foreign minister in 1991, learned the lessons of that war. The time to consider options is not during a war, but before any combat begins. It is important to coordinate with the US, or at least to inform the Americans of Israeli plans.

Similarly, to avoid internal debates when decisions must be made quickly, Netanyahu sought to develop a consensus among key participants in the government and military in advance. As a result, our deterrence posture was quietly maintained or even strengthened, without the need for any action or dramatic pronouncements.

THE combination of responsible behavior in Jerusalem, and the contrasting lack of support and irresponsibility among Arab

demonstrators and the local media that publicized their activities, King Hussein remained loyal, but anti-American riots in Jordan demonstrated the fragility of the situation.

In addition, the performance of the American leaders was less than professional. In addition to having to deal with the Lewinsky affair, President Bill Clinton and the US government weakened their own position in the failed town meeting in Columbus, Ohio. The demonstrators revived memories of the Vietnam war, signaling division and hesitation, when the American government needed to transmit determination.

As a result, Netanyahu has emerged with increased stature and power, as reflected in the discussions regarding the next move in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

One month ago, the US government's strategy was to pressure and humiliate Netanyahu in order to gain concessions or even create a situation in which the government fell and elections were held.

In Washington, Netanyahu's substantive arguments regarding the weaknesses and dangers of the Oslo process were ignored. The American government did not pay much attention to the continuing Palestinian tolerance (or encouragement) of terror and Arafat's plans to take the territory received in the interim negotiations, and declare a state, thereby closing all other options in the final status negotiations.

Now, however, the situation is very different, and Netanyahu's stock has risen dramatically. Within Israel, if elections were held now, Netanyahu could come out stronger. At the same time, the US government has delayed and may now rethink plans to press Israel publicly for an interim withdrawal of 13 percent of the disputed territory over a three-month period, with the Americans (who want to avoid a clash with Arafat) being the sole judge of Palestinian compliance.

The challenge before the entire government is to maintain this high standard in future rounds of the confrontation with Saddam, as well as in considering options in Lebanon and with respect to the Palestinian negotiations. If Netanyahu can convert his recent actions into a consistent pattern of behavior, he has a reasonable chance of maintaining his position for the next six years.

The writer directs the program on arms control and non-proliferation at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies and heads the program on conflict resolution at Bar-Ilan University.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 6, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported at length on the most important elections taking place in Germany since those of the National Assembly of 1919. Later in the day the *Post* issued an extra edition confirming that the National Socialists won 287 seats

in the Reichstag making Adolf Hitler undisputed leader of Germany.

25 years ago: On March 6, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that US Secretary of State William Rogers had called for the death penalty for eight Arab terrorists who murdered three diplo-

mats, two American and Belgian, in Sudan. Prime Minister Golda Meir praised President Nixon for saying the US would not give in to terrorist blackmail, but she was critical of some European nations for tolerating such blackmail.

Alexander Zvielti

## POSTSCRIPT

IF ONLY humans had the memories of elephants.

Staff members and volunteers at the San Francisco Zoo have been digging holes since the spring of 1997 in an attempt to find the buried head of Pennie, an Asian elephant that died in

1995. After Pennie was euthanized due to a severely unstable hip and a suspected neurological disorder, zoo officials detached and buried her head to preserve her skull for educational use.

But now the two who were pre-

sent at the burial can't remember where they buried it.

"We're trying to take it with a sense of humor, but it's serious, too, because it's an important scientific piece," says Diane Kisich, who manages the zoo's collection of bones.

The zoo has spent about \$900 so far, mostly to rent heavy equipment to dig holes between two trees that were used as markers for the head's grave.

"It's been like an archeological dig," says associate curator Michele Rudovsky.

Handwritten note: *Handwritten signature/initials*



# Do we really need to 'adopt a fighter'?

STUART A. COHEN

We have recently been bombarded by an advertising campaign promoting the IDF's new program, *Ametz Lohem* (Adopt a Fighter). It exhorts us to contribute to a fund established for the purpose of providing scholarships to soldiers in combat units upon completion of their service.

Launched a couple of months ago in a well-publicized gala attended by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, the campaign has entered our homes in the form of a promotional leaflet attached

for *Ametz Lohem*, like some of the other measures designed to give fighting troops special status, reveals a certain confusion in IDF perceptions on how the entire subject of "motivation" might best be approached. On the one hand, our military commanders seem to be coming round to a recognition of the growing importance of the market ethos in contemporary Israeli life. Hence, they are prepared to support a wider range of financial rewards for combat duty than was once thought necessary, or possible. Nevertheless, they stop short

**On deeper reflection, the program loses some of its shine. There are sound reasons to fear it might boomerang and harm the very cause which it is designed to promote**

to our regular telephone and electricity bills. Doubtless, the instinctive reaction of most of us has been to reach for our checkbooks.

Is this not the least we can do to show our appreciation to those young men who literally put their lives on the line on our behalf? Have they not earned the right to receive some special form of recognition for the burdens they bear and for the ultimate sacrifice they are prepared to make? What recompense could be more fitting — and more typically Jewish — than a grant designed to enable them to attend an institution of higher learning?

These are, of course, rhetorical questions, all of which generate and deserve a whole-hearted affirmative response. On deeper reflection, however, the *Ametz Lohem* program loses some of its shine. In fact, there are sound reasons to fear that it might boomerang and harm the very cause which it is designed to promote.

One reason for concern is the timing. The announcement of the launch came in close proximity to recent press reports of fluctuations in what military sources term "motivation" — especially as registered by the readiness of some new conscripts to serve in combat units. Correctly or otherwise, this conjunction might generate the impression that the program is really little more than a gimmick designed as much (if not more) to beef up the ranks of fighting units as to benefit the individual servicemen.

A sense that "something" (anything?) needs to be done to stimulate motivation had already given birth to several similar measures, prominent among which were raising the pay of combat soldiers and (as recently enacted by the Knesset) granting a financial bonus to reservists summoned to especially long bouts of duty. *Ametz Lohem* seems just one more step in the same direction, and to derive from precisely the same need.

If this is indeed the case, then some rethinking might be called

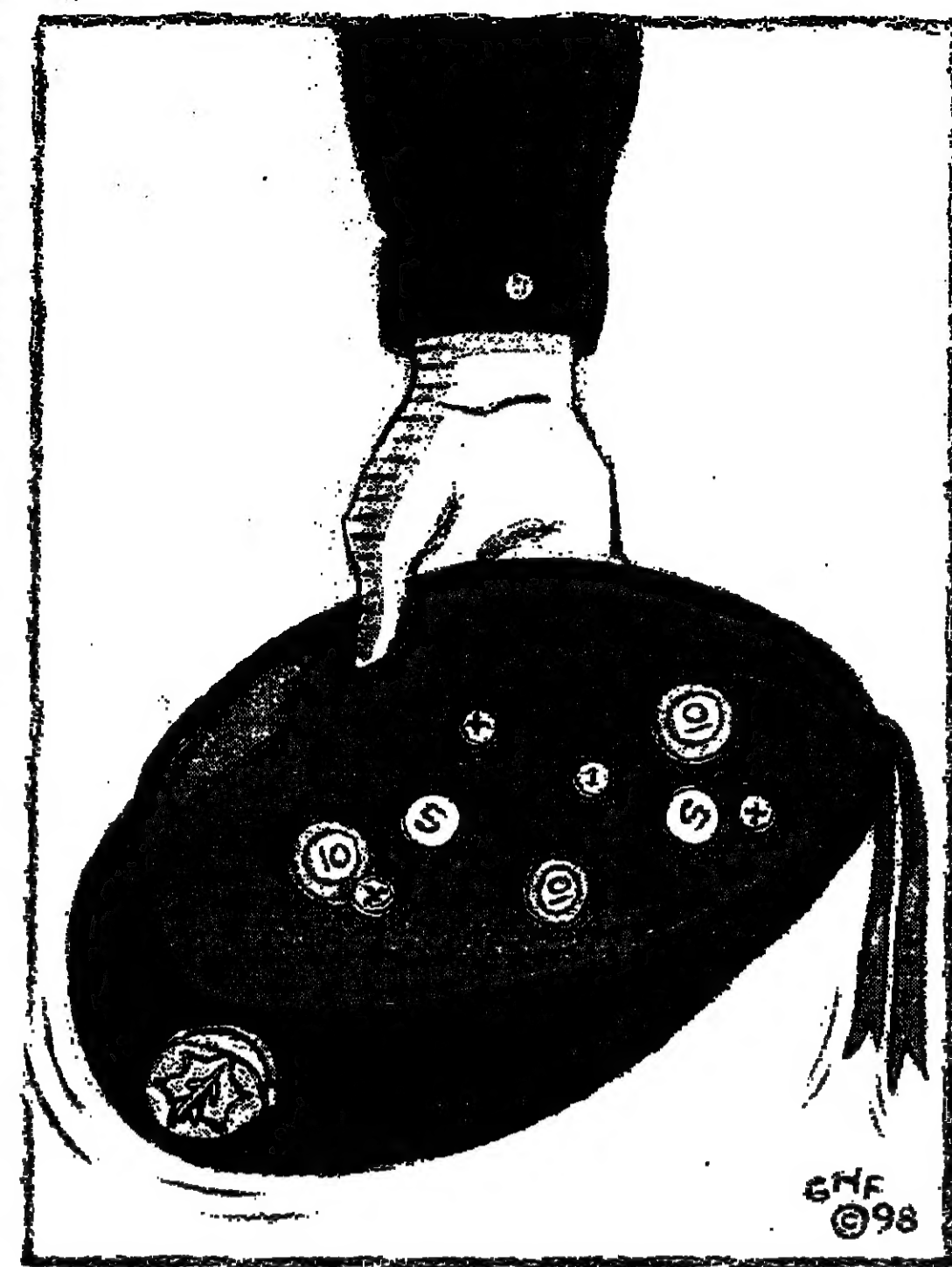
for taking their own reasoning to its logical conclusion. Quite apart from resisting the notion of an all-professional army, they also do not advocate anything like a reasonable and respectable economic incentive for either conscripts or reservists. In this respect, *Ametz Lohem* conforms to a rather disappointing pattern. Contrary to the impression perhaps conveyed by the blaze of publicity, at the purely economic level, what it offers is in fact somewhat modest.

Costly though a year's tuition at university may be, the sums involved are hardly astronomical and certainly not worth risking one's life for. As a result, instead of showing gratitude for what the program promises to provide, many young servicemen might have reason to feel insulted. Is this really all that society can promise them in return for their efforts? Better, perhaps, to forgo the entire bounty rather than to appear a pauper by accepting it.

A SECOND, and still more fundamental category of reservations concerns the program's wider institutional implications. These do not impinge on the program's possible effect on the feelings of individual servicemen, but on the public image of the IDF as a whole.

Approaching its 50th birthday, the IDF really ought to grow up. It is about time that it shed its appearance of a poor relation, only capable of making ends meet with the help of the occasional hand-outs from a fickle public. That may have once been the case. After all, there were periods when the national budgets were truly stretched and when funds were limited across the entire board of public expenditure. But this — fortunately — is obviously no longer the case. Average standards of living in Israel are high even by most Western standards.

More to the point, our government must permit itself to spend for things on such luxuries as the coun-



try's 50th birthday celebration and substantial subsidies to unprecedented numbers of yeshiva students, many of whom perform no military service whatsoever. Whether these new conditions necessitate a reexamination of the continued validity of such existing voluntary agencies as LIBI and the Vaad L'ma'an Hahayal is a question which can be left in abeyance. Anachronistic though both bodies may appear, they do have the benefit of a long and distinguished tradition of financing good works from which generations of servicemen and servicewomen have benefited.

But the same cannot be said of *Ametz Lohem*. In this case, the IDF seems to be attempting simply to turn back the clock. Instead of trying to think up a new way to finance its needs from its own resources, it has taken the easy way out and gone cap in hand to the public. Quite apart from being an uncharacteristically unimaginative policy, it might also be a self-defeating approach. The sight of a modern national fighting force canvassing for voluntary dona-

tions on behalf of its combat troops is strange, to say the least. One can hardly imagine a similar spectacle in contemporary France, Britain, America, or Germany.

This is not because these are richer countries than Israel, but because their entire approach to a state-supported military seems to be altogether more mature. The US, for instance, also has an Army College Fund — but it is financed entirely by the Department of Defense budget.

We would do well to adopt a similar tone. If the welfare of combat troops warrants extraordinary expenditures, then it is up to the military authorities to find the funds from within their own budgetary resources. And if the existing IDF budget is not large or flexible enough to meet the needs, then it is up to the minister of defense to persuade his cabinet colleagues of the need for a special supplement.

Not the least of his functions is to ensure that the government has its budgetary priorities right. His resort to an appeal to the public for funds suggests either

that he has failed in that task or — worse still — that he has not dared to take the political risk of demanding that his colleagues devote a small percentage of their own budgets for this purpose.

Whichever the case, *Ametz Lohem* is in danger of creating precisely the opposite of the impression which its originators must have had in mind. Our combat troops are an outstandingly dedicated and courageous body of men, whose readiness for self-sacrifice deserves not only symbolic forms of national respect but also substantive rewards. Both should be the product of a considered act of state, and not be dependent on the publicity skills of an advertising agency. Our soldiers, and the entire institution in which they serve, deserve more than to be cast in the role of schnorrers.

The writer is professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University and senior research associate of the BESA Center for Strategic Studies.

## Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

## Ephraim's Mossad

"Change," said English theologian Richard Hooker four centuries ago, "is not made without inconvenience."

The Mossad, until recently the pinnacle of the mythical sabra's universally admired imagination, poise, and arrogance, will now have to learn that what is true for clerics, politicians, and ordinary people is equally true for spies.

After glaringly failing to adequately wiretap an apartment in Bern, eliminate a pedestrian in Amman, and debrief an agent in Tel Aviv, it no longer takes a satellite, mole, or even a defense analyst to suspect that something is rotten in the kingdom of Israeli

intelligence. Judging by the reported ineffectiveness instigated by Danny Yatom's imposition on them, it appears that as far as most Mossadniks are concerned the root of their malfunctions was in their leadership. Had their boss been more savvy, i.e. an insider nurtured by the farm system which bred the likes of Adolf Eichmann's bold captors, or legendary spy Eli Cohen, failures such as those we have just witnessed would have been marginal, secret, or altogether avoided.

That kind of analysis, to be sure, is baseless. Retired generals Meir Amit and Yitzhak Hafi led the Mossad during some of its most glorious years. True, considering his apparently flawed strategic insight and reportedly problematic interpersonal skills Danny Yatom was a wrong pick, yet his imprint alone could not have had so decisive an impact on Mossad's performance. Yehuda Gil's alleged forgeries, for instance, originated years ahead of Yatom's appointment.

**To be successful Israel's spies must fathom the post-Cold War era's strategic, demographic, and normative transformations**

intelligence.

Indeed, the crossroads at which our espionage agency has now arrived reflects changes which are so broad, deep, and sweeping that even that most hermetically sealed, lavishly funded, and pundit-revered of institutions could not escape.

One major change which overwhelmed the Mossad is the media revolution. With a multi-channelled TV industry covering live anything and everything from dull parliamentary debates to blood-soaked battlefields, it was, and remains, naive to expect even this mecca of top secrecy to escape at least some measure of public scrutiny.

Considering this general context, and more specifically the derelict leaks by some of its executives in recent weeks, the Mossad must streamline its currently wild relationship with the media. This can be achieved by appointing a press liaison. Though he or she would obviously meet the press much less frequently than other spokespeople, this individual would give the organization a unified, professional, public voice without compromising the secrecy which must accompany its leaders' personal views, actions, or even whereabouts.

In this respect, the Mossad is belatedly experiencing the growing pains which its parallels — most notably the increasingly professional IDF Spokesman — have long since outgrown. Viewing the media as an enemy, rather than a legitimate, professional, and indispensable fixture of any democratic landscape is about as anachronistic as the Cold War, which brings us to the other sea change with which the Mossad must cope.

gem like Nikita Khrushchev's famous anti-Stalin diatribe.

Today no one could care less about, say, Boris Yeltsin's pronouncements; as an aspiring capitalist and democrat, he is no enemy of the West and, unlike the Mossad, is a distinguished product of the media revolution who voluntarily goes to CNN or the BBC whenever he has something to tell the world. In these circumstances, the Mossad will doubtfully manage to say about his views anything he hasn't himself volunteered — whether sober or drunk — to the media.

Finally, the Mossad's recruits are no longer those worldly, multilingual, trans-cultural, Holocaust-wedged Central Europeans who were its founders.

The Isser Harel and Yitzhak Shamir types have now given way, at least in some cases, to the sabras with whom I grew up in pre- and post-'67 Jerusalem. I can think of at least one acquaintance in the Mossad who has no mother-tongue knowledge of any foreign language. Such people cannot always roam the big world as inconspicuously, and delve into its psyche as naturally, as their predecessors could.

In short, some of the Mossad's most time honored habits, goals, and means have become defunct. It's time to adapt.

First, downsize on quasi-diplomacy. Mossad stations like the one which reportedly substitutes for an embassy in Indonesia should be transferred to the Foreign Ministry's auspices. Not because the latter would necessarily do a better job there, but because statically adorning flagstaffs saps the concentration of this organization, and should no longer be among its tasks. It may have been relevant under the circumstances of the Cold War. Now it is not.

Secondly, the energy which Mossad once dedicated to Cold War-related issues that no longer exist — from rescuing persecuted Jewish communities to infiltrating political hierarchies across Eastern Europe — should now be diverted into a counter-terrorist effort. Surely, the Mossad is busy fighting terrorism. But to do so efficiently, it must first lose weight, and that can only be achieved by shedding entire functions which have become anachronistic.

Lastly, as it sets out to perform its basic tasks — gathering intelligence in enemy countries and carrying out operations wherever those be necessary — Ephraim Halevy's Mossad should wonder whether it hasn't recruited a few too many provincial sabras, while squandering the potential contribution of nearly a million new immigrants.

At the end of the day, change from within and exposure from without are inevitable. The only question for the Mossad is whether to embrace those because, or in spite of, itself.

FOR most of its history, Israel's offshore espionage activity reflected, and thrived on, that postwar East-West cleavage. In a world where scores of major capitals,

## The first mitzva

Late one night, Rabbi Haim Berlin, Rav of Moscow, was interrupted in his studies by loud knocking at the door. Moments later, an obviously distraught stranger was admitted to his study.

"Last week my wife gave birth to a baby boy," the visitor began, "and I want to enter him into the covenant of Abraham tomorrow."

Noting the confusion on Berlin's face as to why such a joyous occasion should be a cause of distress, the man continued: "I make my living selling Christian icons. If my customers knew that I am Jewish, they would kill me for trading in their religious items. Therefore my son's brit must be kept absolutely secret."

Rather than endanger any of Moscow's *mohalim*, Berlin, disguised as a doctor, travelled the following morning to the man's home in a section of the city without Jews and performed the brit himself.

Several months later, Berlin was again interrupted in the middle of the night by the icon seller. "You must have wondered why a Jew so far from his religion still wanted his son to have a brit," he said to Berlin. Rabbi Berlin nodded, and the man went on, "I was raised in a religious family, and for whatever reasons reached my present state. But I want my son to be able to choose to be a Jew, and I realized that without a brit, he could never return to the Jewish people."

of the verse, "Behold you are beautiful my love; behold, you are beautiful my love; you have dove's eyes."

He explained by telling them the story of the icon seller. "The dove represents the Jewish people," Berlin said, "as the Midrash says, 'You [Israel] are beautiful before the sin; you are beautiful before the sin.' The dove, the Talmud tells us, will never stray further from its nest than she can see the way back. So too that Jew would not allow his son to go further from the Jewish people than he could see the way back."

Now, thanks to an article in last Friday's *Jerusalem Post Magazine*, we know that there are 30 Jews in Israel no longer concerned with preserving a way back for their sons. (From the extensive coverage, one would have thought there were 30,000 such parents.) Though these parents' suit in the Supreme Court is the nominal excuse for the extensive coverage, little attention was paid to the legal implications.

No one is forcing these parents to circumcise their sons (though a good case could be made that they are forcing on their sons a cruel choice, later in life, between ostracism and a circumcision that will then be far more traumatic, painful, and dangerous).

Rather, it is these 30 who want to prevent millions of Jewish parents from bringing their children into the covenant of Abraham. Amazing how deeply totalitarian tendencies run among the most "enlightened" elements of our society. And equally remarkable how natural they find it that the Supreme Court should be their instrument of social coercion.

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

The Supreme Court is being asked to sit as an unelected legislature to enact rules that would have no hope of passage in the

**Thirty people want to prevent millions of Jewish parents from bringing their children into the covenant of Abraham**

Knesset. Only a Court that has completely lost any sense of the limits of its own power would have accepted the invitation to place itself in a clearly legislative role.

BRIT MILA was the first mitzva given to the descendants of Abraham, and the basis of all future covenants between God and the Jewish people.

"Every mitzva that [the Jewish

people] accepted with joy, they continue to celebrate with joy," says the Talmud. "Every mitzva for which [the Jewish people] have been willing to sacrifice their lives, has always remained with them."

Brit mila is the Talmud's paradigm for both statements. For 4,000 years Jews have performed the mitzva with joy, even though it frequently cost them their lives at the hands of their oppressors. Yet the *Magen* — reflecting the modern obsession with sex — managed to reduce the mitzva to a smirky discussion of whether foreskins increase or decrease pleasure.

A story from Yaffa Eliach's *Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust* captures what this mitzva has meant to Jews through the ages: On a work detail one day in the Janowska Camp, the Bluebeard Rebbe found himself confronted by a woman who suddenly appeared before him like an apparition. "Jews, have mercy on me and give me a knife," she begged.

Thinking that she intended to commit suicide, the Rebbe told her, "Why are you in such a hurry

to get to the World of Truth? What difference can one day make?"

The commotion drew the attention of the Nazi guard, who ran over swinging his rubber truncheon. In the Nazi's breast pocket was a knife, which the woman spotted and demanded from him. Taken aback by her fierce tone, the German handed her the knife.

The woman then bent down and lifted a bundle of rags from the ground, which she unwrapped to reveal an infant on a snow white pillow. Raising the pillow, she pronounced the words, "Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has sanctified us by Your commandments and commanded us concerning mila." With a steady hand, she circumcised her infant son.

Looking up at Heaven, the mother cried out, "God of the universe, You have given me a healthy child. I am returning to you a whole, kosher Jew." She then returned the blood-stained knife to the Nazi, and handed him her baby still on his white pillow.

**Correction**  
The lecture, *The Restored Holy Half Shekel* to be given on Wednesday, March 11, will take place at 6:30 p.m. and not at 7:30 p.m.

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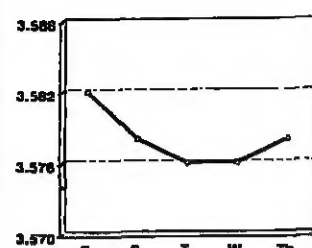
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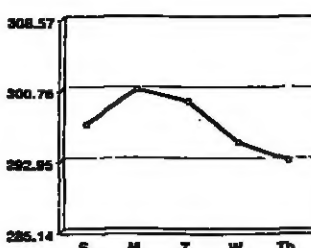
## MARKETS

in brief

### DOLLAR / SHEKEL

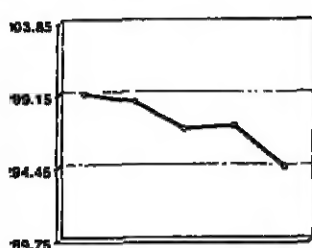


### MAOF INDEX



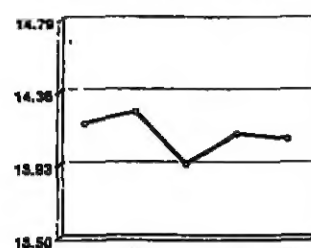
### GOLD

\$ per ounce

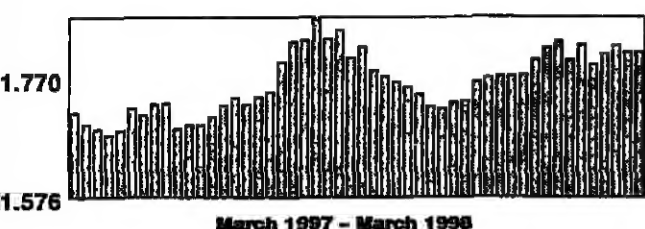


### OIL

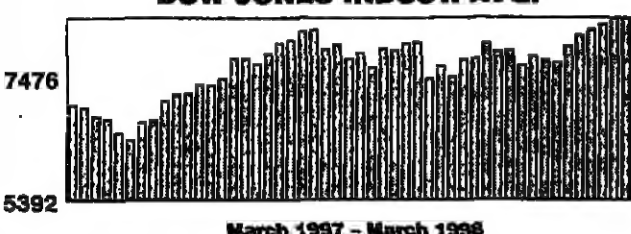
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



### DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



### DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



## BITS AND BYTES

By NINA GILBERT

### NICE to acquire California software company

NICE Systems, the Tel Aviv-based provider of computer telephony integration products, announced an agreement this week to acquire IBS Corporation, a privately held software company based in San Diego, for \$3.9 million in cash and \$1.6m. in shares.

The move is part of a strategy to expand in the call center logging and quality market. The agreement will enable NICE to improve its offering for large corporations with multiple call centers in various locations and to address the IBM Mainframe market.

### Check Point to cooperate with Entrust

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd., headquartered in Ramat Gan, and Texas-based Entrust Technologies have announced a cross-licensing and distribution agreement to provide unified enterprise security solutions that include firewalls, virtual private networking (VPN) solutions and remote access with a single public-key infrastructure (PKI) for key management.

Check Point is a leading provider of enterprise security and traffic management solutions, including its Firewall-1. Entrust has software to provide a complete security solution across multiple platforms for desktops, corporate networks, intranets and the Internet.

### Internet trading to be provided by E\*Trade

The E\*Trade GROUP, a provider of electronic financial services, has granted an Israeli license to a group of entrepreneurs led by Baruch Halpert and Jerusalem Global, a high-tech investment banking firm. Israeli investors will be able to trade on US and Tel Aviv stock exchanges via the Internet, 24 hours a day, by the second half of the year.

"The Israeli market is well-suited for on-line investing as the country has an active high technology sector with close to 100 companies traded on US exchanges, as well as a high penetration of Internet users," Halpert said. The system will also enable trading in options, mutual funds, and eventually futures and contracts.

### Net Accelerator arrives

PF1 Systems has begun to market here the Net Accelerator program designed for home Internet use with Netscape Navigator and Explorer. The program was developed by the IMSI company in the US and went on the market there a few months ago.

Once an Internet site is opened, the program automatically downloads into the cache memory all available material, and is thus always one step ahead. This enables use of dead time on the modem, which is not fully utilized while reading information, thus saving Internet connection time. The software, which works in the background, is priced here at NIS 200.

### Invitation to submit offers for the purchase of plots in Moshava Migdal

- Offers are invited for the purchase of three plots in Block 15515 in Moshava Migdal, as follows:  
A plot 6,386 sq. m. in area which is registered as Parcel 1.  
Half the rights in two plots (an unspecified part), which have a total area of 1,904 sq. m. and are registered as Parcels 2 and 3.
- The offers should be submitted, together with a dollar-linked bank guarantee in the amount of 5% of the value of the offer, and valid for three months from the date of its issue, to the office of the undersigned by April 1, 1998.
- The bidders will be responsible for checking the physical condition of the property, its legal and planning status.
- The undersigned is not obligated to accept the highest or any bid and reserves the right to conduct negotiations with any or all of the bidders.
- A bidder who retracts his offer will forfeit his deposit.
- This invitation to purchase does not constitute a tender.
- The owners will not pay an agent's commission.

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## Tshuva completes Delek takeover

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Contractor Yitzhak Tshuva completed yesterday the takeover of Delek the Israel Fuel Corp. after Bank Hapoalim's board of directors approved the sale of its 25 percent stake in Israel's second largest petroleum company for NIS 385 million in cash.

Tshuva will pay the bank NIS 160 per share which is substantially lower than the NIS 189.5 per share offered by Discount Investment Corp., which was until recently Delek's largest shareholder with a 37.6% stake.

Upon completion of the deal, the Netanyahu based contractor will hold 50% of the fuel company. Tshuva purchased a 25% stake in Delek last week, through his company Tashluz Assets, for NIS 385 million. He acquired shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and bought a 7% stake

from entrepreneur Eliezer Fishman.

Tshuva's move caught the IDB Holding Corp. Discount's parent company, by surprise. According to reports, the Recanati family, which is the controlling shareholder in IDB, is trying now to reach an agreement with Tshuva for the sale of all his holdings in Delek. Spokespeople for both IDB group and Tshuva declined to comment over a possible deal. If such a transaction will be signed Tshuva is expected to record a profit of some \$20m.

In a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Hapoalim and Tashluz said they agreed to cooperate to enter within two months into negotiations with Discount or its parent company to check a possible sale. If Tshuva decides to sell his holdings in Delek, or its subsidiaries, he would pay a certain amount to Bank Hapoalim according to the number of shares sold.

"We were very honest with Tshuva and it will be unfair if gains at our expense," said a Bank Hapoalim source. "That's why both sides agreed to compensation for the bank if the IDB deal comes through."

The source emphasized that the bank did not enter negotiations with IDB although the holding company had offered more money for the shares. "The bank held negotiations only with one party," he said.

He added that reports about worsening relations between the bank and the Recanatis were unfounded. "Everybody realizes that this was a business opportunity and nothing personal."

Sources close to Tshuva said it was unlikely that he would sell his shares to IDB. They said, however, that if the Recanati family offers him an extremely generous sum he might find it impossible to refuse.

## Iscar bids to buy Korea Tungsten division for \$150m.

By DAVID HARRIS

Iscar is close to purchasing Korea Tungsten Mining's tungsten carbide tools division for \$150 million, according to a report by Bloomberg.

Eitan Wertheimer, Iscar's president and son of its founder and chairman Stef Wertheimer, confirmed that the company is negotiating with the Koreans.

"Nothing has been finalized, but we are at the stage of due diligence," he said. "I will not speculate one way or another about sums of money, but we are interested in the elements of their company which are relevant to our core business."

Iscar has been active in Korea for some 17 years, opening a sales office there early in the 1990s.

The completion of the deal will mark the first major purchase of a Far East company by an Israeli firm since the beginning of the Asian economic crisis. Many leading business executives here have begun scouting the region since the collapse of currencies in a bid to pick up bargains. Since the start of the Asian crisis Korea Tungsten Mining's shares have lost 75 percent.

Formed in 1916, Korea Tungsten became a unit of Korea's 28th largest conglomerate Keopung Group four years ago. The company manufactures and supplies metalworking products, cemented carbides, and tungsten-related goods, including three-layer tungsten carbide tools, fine ceramics, cement, and tungsten watch casings, and is branching out into the auto parts industry through a subsidiary. The division at stake accounts for about 80 percent of Korea Tungsten's activities.

Iscar is the world's fourth largest carbide metal cutting tools producer and one of Israel's biggest profit-makers.

## Japanese banks announce cutbacks

TOKYO (Bloomberg) — Sumitomo Bank Ltd. and other big Japanese lenders said yesterday they will cut back on everything from executive salaries to branches as they submitted cost-cutting plans to the government.

The banks were required to present those plans along with applications for government money under the nation's first financial industry bailout. Japan's 18 biggest banks and three regional lenders applied for more than 2 trillion yen (\$15.9 billion) in public funds.

For most of the lenders, the restructuring plans are almost identical. Some analysts said they were drawn up primarily to satisfy the government, which wants to show the public it's making banks pay for their rescue.

Sumitomo Bank said it would halve its 40 overseas branches in three years, sell Sumitomo Bank of California, and cut personnel costs by 5 percent in the next three years.

The retreat from overseas is part of a trend that's taken hold in the last year, as Japanese banks eliminate unprofitable businesses and refocus attention on the home market. Pay Cuts Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. and Sakura Bank Ltd. are among those seeking to sell preferred shares or subordinate bonds to the government to replenish capital depleted through bad-loan write-offs.

The government last month set aside 13 trillion yen to buy bonds and shares from banks, or lend money to them outright, to help increase their capital.

The cost cuts that accompanied the applications focused on salary and personnel reductions. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, IBI, Sakura, Fuji Bank Ltd., Sanwa Bank Ltd. and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd. said they are eliminating executive bonuses beginning April 1.

IBI is also cutting employee bonuses by up to 25% and eliminating other benefits, for an overall pay cut of about 10%.

Dai-ichi Kangyo will reduce directors' pay 10%, managers' salaries 3% and bonuses 20%. Asahi Bank Ltd. will reduce executives' pay an average of 20% and eliminate bonuses in the year starting April 1.

## PM's Office: No economic summit planned

By DAVID HARRIS

The Prime Minister's Office said yesterday there are no plans for an urgent meeting of leading players in the economy nor was such an event ever on the agenda, despite having said last week the summit would take place very soon.

On February 23, office spokesman Ophir Akonitis told *The Jerusalem Post* Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu planned to hold a meeting within days. Having met Netanyahu two days earlier, Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper said those participating in the meeting would be Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, Propper himself, and several other industry leaders.

"We are not talking about any meeting at this stage," said Akonitis. "Nor was there ever a plan to hold such a meeting."

Furthermore the move to bring the Histadrut on board in any economic plan came from the Manufacturers Association rather than the Prime Minister's Office, Akonitis added.

Propper yesterday expressed his surprise that no meeting is being scheduled. "This is very strange

considering this was the conclusion of our meeting," said Propper. "I'll wait for [Netanyahu] to return [from his current trip to Europe], then I'll take the matter up with him."

Propper maintains that a united approach to economic recovery can lead to 3% growth this year, as compared to the forecast 2%, and 5% growth in 1999. "If we all do nothing growth will only reach 1% this year."

Propper, meanwhile, wrote to Netanyahu asking that any money saved, if the minimum wage is not increased for a year, be invested in infrastructure and to prevent further unemployment. Industry as a whole supports the government's attempt to delay the increase scheduled for April, wrote Propper.

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Interlake	4.75	-0.0625
Int'l Flaw & Fr	46.375	+0.3125
Int'l Matchbooks	27.75	-0.625
Int'l Paper	47.675	-0.625
Intermatic	55.675	+1.0625

[illegible]

Northrop	134.825	-0.2
Northwest Corp	41.8125	+0.2
NSI	2.125	+0.1
Occidental Pet	26.25	+0.1
Ocean Corp	27.125	-0.5
OEA	20.375	-0.8
Ohio Casualty	48.5875	+0.1
Ohio Crum	45.8125	-0.5

[illegible]

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The Jerusalem Post Friday, March 6, 1998

# NEWSinFOCUS

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## Politics, personalities & the presidency

It's amazing that anyone could actually have believed it. Two politicians from opposing parties vying for a prestigious post in a contest decided by 120 other politicians — and still miraculously rising above politics?

But Israelis have always expected a lot from the presidency. That's why the week of unprecedented horse-trading and arm-twisting that characterized the race between Ezer Weizman and Shaul Amior left a bad taste in many citizens' mouths.

We wondered exactly how a president can carry out his role of uniting, inspiring and symbolizing the people of Israel if his election campaign is as bitter and divisive as any other political race.

The experts say the phenomenon is something we had better become accustomed to: The politicized presidency is here to stay.

"Traditionally, the presidency has been a ceremonial office designed to symbolize the country and what's good in it in a way that rises above the melee and above politics," says Peter Medding, a professor of political science at the Hebrew University. "That's what it used to be. I don't think that's what it is anymore."

Medding observes that the presidency is not the only institution once thought to exist above the fray which has become a political football in recent years. Once upon a time, the Supreme Court was also considered a place where the greater national interest was superior to factional fighting.

"But now the Court and the presidency have both become part of the political process," says Medding.

Though Weizman triumphed in the end, it was clear that the fact he was fair game for political attacks took him by surprise. What happened was a first.

No sitting president of Israel had ever faced a challenger, let alone one as proactive as Amior, who did not hesitate in pressing sensitive buttons in his effort to win support from Knesset members.

Amior played on ethnic loyalties by arguing that the time had come for a president of Sephardi extraction. He was touted as "The First President of the Second Israel." Pundits and politicians alike agreed that this was the most politicized contest for the Presidency in history, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor head Ehud Barak working to lobby for their respective candidates.

How did it come to this? Those on the Left blame the Likud for dragging the contest down into the political mud with its unprecedented decision for running an active campaign against a sitting president.

"Presenting a contender to an incumbent president opened up a political process which damaged the presidency," argues Professor

The tussle that ended this week with Ezer Weizman's re-election has sparked debate about the nature of the job that was originally meant to be ceremonial. Allison Kaplan-Sommer considers the question



"Weizman behaved differently than past presidents: He made more public statements about a whole series of political issues and criticized the government," said political scientist Peter Medding. "He can't expect his words not to be used against him in a campaign."

Yaron Ezrahi, also of the Hebrew University's political science department. He says the contest damaged the idea of a president as an apolitical symbol who can speak as someone who puts public interest above politics.

Ezrahi, a senior fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, says the choice of Amior, who got the nod from Netanyahu after being passed over by the Likud leader for ministerial positions and Knesset speaker, debased the office of president, making it just another prize in the game of political spoils.

Likud politicians charge that the heightened political tone of the race came from Labor, which gave its party members strict orders to support Weizman.

But political scientist Medding contends that, to a great extent,

Amior brought the contest on himself by the idiosyncratic nature of his presidency.

"Weizman behaved differently than past presidents: He made more public statements about a whole series of issues which are political, and criticized the government's handling of issues — both when Rabin was prime minister and with Netanyahu," says Medding.

"If a president is going to make statements of this kind he can't expect not to get flack and make enemies. And when it comes time for election, he can't expect his words not to be used against him in a campaign."

Some say the evolution of the president into simply another politician is evidence that the post has become bankrupt.

"I believe the moment direct

elections were introduced, the president's role was changed. He was no longer a ceremonial figurehead, but a political actor. He was no longer a symbol of the nation, but a candidate for election. He was no longer a president, but a politician." (AP)

"It's ridiculous. The head of government is elected by the people, so why shouldn't the head of state also be chosen by the people, and not by 120 politicians?"

Kleiner argues that because of direct elections the only substantive role held by the president — choosing which party should put together a government — has been eliminated. Therefore, he says, it would be logical if Israel, like the US, combined the governmental and symbolic leadership duties into one job — a prime minister-president.

Kleiner's is not the only change



Amior did not hesitate in pressing sensitive buttons such as ethnic loyalties in his effort to win support from Knesset members. (AP)

in the presidency suggested this week. Eleven bills have been submitted to the Knesset, proposing changes in the way a president is chosen, and the length of term he serves.

The proposal that has engendered the most discussion is the idea of a shift from a presidential term of five years with the opportunity for re-election to one term of seven years.

Professor Eliezer Don-Yehiya of Bar-Ilan University says it is unrealistic to leave the current law in place, yet expect sitting presidents to remain unchallenged.

"If the law says someone serves as president for five years and then stands for reelection, it is perfectly legitimate for the opposing party to run a candidate against him. If this becomes the new norm, the bitterness of the race can defeat the whole purpose of the presidency," he says.

"The president is supposed to unite the people. But if he knows that he will, at a certain point, have to stand for re-election, lobby and get support from some quarters and fight an opponent, that could influence his behavior while in office."

"If you don't want a political contest, at least for a sitting president, you have to change the law," adds Don-Yehiya. "Perhaps a president who serves one seven-year term should be seriously considered."

But Reuven Hazan, a lecturer in political science at the Hebrew University, says that this move by itself will not be enough to stop

the process of increased politicization in the presidency.

"Even if you change the position to a one-shot election, despite the fact that neither candidate will be a sitting president, you can bet that you are still going to have a real hot political battle," he says.

Most experts are doubtful whether any concrete changes are going to occur in the institution of the presidency. They dismiss Kleiner's intimations that the office could soon be eliminated.

Hazan argues that the job has become potentially more significant, not less, since the introduction of direct elections for prime minister. This is something, explains Hazan, that only those who have read the fine print of the new election laws truly understand.

Under the current law the premier has the ability to disband the Knesset, but only if he gets the go-ahead from the president.

"The president's new power is even more political than his old power was," Hazan says. "Under the old system, he appointed the head of a party — usually the largest party — to put together a government after an election, or when a government was brought down."

"But under the new system, the president has a new and different power."

Potentially the prime minister could find himself in a situation in which he is threatened by a possible no-confidence vote in the Knesset, yet is confident of winning a solid majority in a popular election. In such a case he

might choose to disband the Knesset and call for new legislative elections.

The only possible barrier would be the president, who could refuse to give his approval; the Knesset would stay in session even against the will of the prime minister.

This would represent an enormous amount of power in the president's hands.

Hazan believes the new electoral system makes a presidential presence important in other ways.

"When you have a situation where the prime minister can be elected by 50.5 percent of the people, it is important for there to be a figure at the top who at least tries to represent everyone, so that the other 49.5 percent don't feel completely disenfranchised."

Political scientists agree that ultimately the nature of the office of president will be shaped by a factor that cannot be enshrined into legislation: the personality of the men — or, perhaps, women — who hold the post in the future.

"Ideally, the presidency incorporates the principle of inclusiveness more than the office of the prime minister," says Ezrahi. "The President's Residence is an extremely important place for non-Jewish minorities to feel they have a hearing. To eliminate it would be a major loss for these communities; they would sense there is no one at the top listening to them."

Most of those interviewed feel that despite his famously blunt statements on a variety of matters, Ezer Weizman's next five years as president will, in the end, raise, not lower, the stature of the job.

"Generally, Ezer Weizman has acted as a reliable carrier and deployer of the symbol of the presidency, attempting to bring society together and draw attention to injustice and neglect," notes Ezrahi. "Notably in his dedication to bereaved families in their times of sorrow and grief, he has won the admiration of the Israeli people."

Says Medding, "Weizman has, in fact, done an enormous amount as president, and for the presidency; it's his mouth that's got him in trouble."

"I don't think there's any force on earth, political or otherwise, that can control his mouth — but that's also part of his charm: he's down to earth, frank and authentic."

In a national atmosphere as fractious as the current one, perhaps a battle-scarred, earthy and authentic president suits Israel better than a regal, aristocratic and detached figurehead, even if it means enduring a bit of political mudwrestling in order for him to get there. In any case, it seems we don't have much of a choice.

"This election has shown us that everything is now open to a political battle," notes Ezrahi. "In the new Israeli political culture, everything has become a horse race."

## A changed mood in Baghdad

Many Iraqis, mired in an economy devastated by sanctions, view the inspections agreement as the light at the end of a long tunnel, say

John Lancaster and Nora Boustany in an on-the-scene report



Iraqi women and children line up for treatment at a hospital in Baghdad. UN aid workers say the embargo has taken a toll on children under five: Some 30 percent suffer from malnutrition. (AP)

Saad Hassani, a professor of modern drama at Baghdad University, still recalls the day seven years ago when American bombs toppled a communications tower near his home, so terrifying his 5-year-old son that the child did not utter a word for nearly two weeks.

A bearded, British-educated scholar whose literary tastes run from Samuel Beckett to Edgar Allan Poe, Hassani has since endured crippling international trade sanctions that have wiped out Iraq's middle class, pulverized its industrial base and ruined education and health-care systems that were once the envy of the Arab world.

But Hassani, 45, is daring to believe in the future again.

Like many Iraqis, he considers last month's visit here by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan a potential turning point in his country's long struggle to shed its pariah status and rejoin the modern world.

It is not only that Annan and President Saddam Hussein managed to resolve, at least for now, a crisis over UN weapons inspections that had threatened to mushroom into the biggest American military strike since the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Just as important, in Hassani's view, is the effect Annan's visit had of spotlighting Iraqi suffering under the sanctions regime and of easing Iraq's sense of physical, diplomatic and psychological isolation.

"The sense of optimism is rather high now," said Hassani, whose son, now 13, still stammers as a result of his wartime trauma. "A great number of people seem to be thinking of us... For the first time,

we do not feel quite so aloof from the rest of the world."

Hassani and his countrymen may be in for a big disappointment.

The Clinton administration has reacted with extreme caution to the unexpected deal between Annan and Saddam. It has warned that US military forces now massed in the Persian Gulf are poised to respond immediately to subsequent breaches of Iraq's disarmament obligations — a highly plausible scenario, given the Iraqi leader's long history of challenges to the inspection regime.

Some foreign envoys here say Saddam's decision to permit inspections of "presidential" sites — the crux of the latest crisis — is a tactical retreat that has merely postponed an inevitable bloody showdown with the US.

Even if Saddam cooperates with the inspections, there is no guarantee that the US — one of five permanent members of the UN Security Council — will permit sanctions to be lifted as long as he remains in power.

But if Washington, in particular, remains deeply skeptical of Saddam's intentions, his handling of the latest crisis — and his courting by the UN secretary general —

seem to have won points for him among Iraqis desperate for any sign of an end to their long ordeal.

"People don't know what the future is going to bring — but, to be fair, they do give him credit for avoiding a military strike, which he didn't do in '91," said an intellectual who, like many of Iraq's 20 million people, secretly blames Saddam for much of the nation's agony.

"Even his enemies would say he is learning."

IF THE mood in Baghdad seems brighter these days, it is partly because the sanctions' effects have been ameliorated by a successful smuggling industry and the UN oil-for-food program, which permits Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil and use the proceeds to buy food and medicine.

Although most Iraqis are mired in poverty, a conspicuous class of "war rich" has emerged in the last several years, fueling a boomlet in restaurants, clothing boutiques and neon-lit ice cream parlors, some filled to capacity on weekends.

Government officials, encouraged by signs of growing international sympathy toward Iraq, are planning to rehabilitate the country's infrastructure and industry, a

process that by some reckonings could take six years and \$60 billion once sanctions are lifted.

In that endeavor, they got some encouragement from Annan, who proposed more than doubling the oil-for-food program to \$5.2 billion every six months.

Under the proposal, the details of which must still be negotiated with Baghdad, oil revenues could also be used to pay for rehabilitating schools, hospitals and, potentially, oil facilities.

Although UN officials are reluctant to discuss the subject, saying they have no information on the Iraqi national budget, an expanded oil-for-food program would almost certainly free government resources for other areas, including improvements to the military.

"The people of the world are fed up with the embargo against Iraq," said Salah Mukhtar, editor of the government-owned *Al-Jumhuriyah* newspaper. "It is no longer a problem for Iraq. It is a problem for the United States."

A rehabilitated Iraq would once again be a formidable power in the Middle East. Unlike most Arab countries, the ancient land of Mesopotamia is abundantly supplied with oil — it has the world's second-largest reserves, after Saudi Arabia — as well as water, which permits it to grow its own food.

Even a grueling eight-year war with Iran in the 1980s did not prevent Saddam Hussein from spending lavishly on infrastructure, social programs and benefits for the middle class.

Clothing was so heavily subsidized, Mukhtar recalled, that a \$100 European suit could be bought for \$40 in Baghdad.

See BAGHDAD, Page 22



# Better late than never...

While Syria and Lebanon have formally rejected Israel's proposal to withdraw from the security zone, David Rudge explains that the last word hasn't yet been said



A UN peacekeeper waves at Lebanese army troops in south Lebanon in 1993. Could the army, backed by UNFIL, play a more forceful role in maintaining order? (AP)

It was exactly 20 years ago this month that the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 425 in the wake of the 1978 Litani Operation, which was aimed at driving Palestinian threats far from the northern border.

The resolution led to the establishment of UNFIL (United Nations Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon) — an international peacekeeping force that was supposed to supervise its implementation.

UNFIL has remained in southern Lebanon through the years, though unable to fulfill its mandate, while the resolution sat and gathered dust on the shelves at UN headquarters in New York.

That was the situation until just over two months ago when Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, in a carefully worded interview with an Arabic-language newspaper, said that Israel was willing to accept and adopt 425.

Mordechai's announcement took the Arab world, and especially Damascus and Beirut, by surprise, and sent journalists running to the archives and the history books to look up the resolution's long-forgotten text.

"For 20 years nobody in Israel seemed to know what 425 was all about, except in the past two months or so," said Timur Goksel, UNFIL's senior political adviser and the force's spokesman for the past 19 years.

"The only time I saw it mentioned in Israel was in an article in *The Jerusalem Post* about a year ago," he noted with irony.

The article suggested that the previously ignored resolution offered Israel a way out of the Lebanon imbroglio under internationally agreed security arrangements.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mordechai appear to have embraced the resolution of late, in light of the costly alternatives, which are:

- Keeping the status quo at the cost of a mounting IDF and South Lebanon Army death toll;
- A comprehensive peace agreement with Syria — the so-called "landlord of Lebanon" — which could take months or years to negotiate and would also entail relinquishing the strategic Golan Heights;
- Withdrawing unilaterally without any security guarantees.

Netanyahu does not relish the thought of conceding all the Golan, even in exchange for a peace treaty with Syria. His gov-

ernment could perhaps be toppled by right-wingers for making such a concession.

The prime minister has also made it clear that unilateral withdrawal is out of the question. Many fear that a pullout without any security arrangements would turn the clock back to the pre-security-zone era when northern communities came under frequent attack.

On the other hand, the government is coming under increasing public pressure to pull the troops out of the Lebanese quagmire and put an end to the bloodletting in

**Journalists went running to archives and history books to see what Resolution 425 actually said**

the "Land of the Cedars." A majority would prefer that this be done in a way that would avoid the appearance of a total surrender.

An opinion poll published this week on Israel Radio's *Nissan Aher* ("Another Matter") program showed that 69 percent support an IDF withdrawal under the auspices of 425.

As many as 57% said they were even prepared to accept some kind of territorial compromise on the Golan in return for peace and quiet along the border with Lebanon and a withdrawal from the security zone.

But the question is whether the 425 option is really viable in light of Syria's rejection of Israel's proposal — ostensibly because of the demands for security arrangements, the disarming of Hizbullah, and guarantees to safeguard SLA members and their families.

Syria's stance also poured cold water over an initial positive reaction that the proposal had won from some senior Lebanese officials.

Following Syria's response, Lebanon's reaction has turned distinctly negative. Beirut and Damascus insist that any IDF withdrawal be unconditional without any discussion of security arrangements.

The Lebanese are also skeptical about Israel's willingness to

implement 425. For many years Lebanon has been described as the Middle East's equivalent of a "Wild West" and a Syrian protectorate with no authority of its own.

"Now Israel is suddenly saying it wants to treat Lebanon as a sovereign entity. The people are naturally suspicious," said a veteran Lebanese observer.

Officially, the Lebanese are calling Israel's proposal primarily a public relations exercise aimed at appeasing domestic as well as international, and especially US, opinion.

Yet while on the basis of these reactions it would seem that 425 is a non-starter, there actually appears to be a glimmer of hope it can be implemented.

The resolution calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon, for the Lebanese government to reassert effective authority over the region and for the restoration of international peace and security. UNFIL was established to confirm the first clause of the resolution and to assist the Lebanese government in achieving the other two.

Another resolution, 426, outlines a mechanism for implementing 425, including arrangements for handing over areas vacated by the IDF to UNFIL which in turn would hand them over to the Lebanese army.

In recent interviews, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Fares Bourez has reiterated the official Syrian-Lebanese rejectionist line. Nevertheless, he has added that there is a way to overcome objections and enable Israel to achieve security arrangements — by both sides holding separate negotiations with the UN.

"If Israel were to withdraw as per 425, it would place distinct obligations on the Lebanese government and the United Nations," said a Western diplomatic source experienced in Middle East affairs.

"It would also put Syria in a very difficult position because it cannot be seen to oppose an Israeli implementation of a UN Security Council Resolution."

"In such circumstances, Syria would have tremendous problems with the international community but more particularly with the Arab world," said the source.

Nevertheless, such a move would be a gamble for Israel, which has always distrusted the idea of leaving security in the hands of others, maintaining that

the IDF is best equipped and motivated to protect the border.

In the event that Israel complies with 425, the burden of restoring peace and security in south Lebanon, and by implication along the northern border, would have to be borne by the Lebanese Army and UNFIL.

Netanyahu said recently that the Lebanese Army was capable of performing this task, but lacked the political will to do so.

The Lebanese Army is still badly lacking in equipment. Its air force and navy are tiny, its armor and artillery corps still a throw-back to the past.

It does, however, have around 60,000 troops. Many have been trained by French, American and other international experts. The Lebanese army would find itself hard put to fight a war, but in terms of being able to control the country it is stronger and in better shape than ever.

UNFIL has been described by some Israeli analysts at best as a force of "chocolate soldiers" whose presence has brought a semblance of stability, and at worst, in the more distant past, as unreliable and a potential source of security leaks.

A part of UNFIL's mandate is to ensure that the area under its jurisdiction is not used as a springboard for hostile actions.

The IDF and the SLA have on numerous occasions accused UNFIL of doing nothing to prevent Hizbullah from using UN posts as a cover for launching attacks on the security zone or firing Katyusha rockets at Galilee.

Goksel maintains, however, that the IDF's presence in the security zone is what has prevented UNFIL from being able to deploy as far as the border so it could fulfill its mandate.

Instead, the nine-nation force of 4,500 troops has primarily been engaged in checkpoint and observation duties and in protecting itself.

"UNFIL has been caught in the middle of one of the most

vicious and long-running cross-fires anywhere in the world and has been prevented by circumstances on the ground from carrying out its peacekeeping role," said Goksel.

Some 230 UNFIL personnel have died in action, and about 400 have been wounded.

Until seven years ago, there was no Lebanese government of substance with which UNFIL could communicate because of a 15-year civil war.

Under the terms of the 1991 Taif Accord, and with Syrian support, a Lebanese government backed by a

of direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon over security arrangements?

The veteran Lebanese observer maintains that Hizbullah would automatically disband in the wake of an IDF withdrawal because it would have lost its raison d'être as a "resistance force fighting the Zionist enemy's occupation of the south." In such an event, said the Lebanese source, Hizbullah would become subject to the terms of the Taif Accord which led to the disbanding of Lebanon's other militias.

He added that the Lebanese gov-

vast majority of SLA members, past and present, would not have to fear persecution.

Between 200 and 300 SLA members, however, would be in a life-threatening situation if they remained behind after an IDF withdrawal.

Some, like SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, have been tried by Lebanese military tribunals in absentia and sentenced to death for "collaborating with the enemy [Israel] and treason."

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor), founder of the Movement for a Peaceful Departure from Lebanon, and others who support an IDF withdrawal, say these SLA soldiers and their families should be given the opportunity and means to live in Israel or abroad.

In the meantime, the government's embracing of 425 has opened Israel to some diplomatic criticism. Syria and Lebanon, which have demanded that Israel implement the resolution for years and have used Israel's refusal as a propaganda weapon, have been put on the defensive.

The manner in which the rejection was announced, from Damascus, has also highlighted Syria's domination of Lebanon.

It remains to be seen, however, whether Israel's proposal is a ploy or a genuine attempt to overcome a problem that a list of diplomatic initiatives, military incursions, the three-year Lebanon War, and Operations Accountability and Grapes of Wrath have failed to resolve.

Despite the public's apparent support for 425, the radio opinion poll indicated a certain degree of skepticism as well as to the government's intentions, as 57% said they believed that the policy change may be simply a public relations exercise.

A senior security official was asked recently why Israel had not thought of making use of the 425 option beforehand, particularly as a counter to Syrian and Lebanese propaganda. His reply was: "Better late than never."

**In a poll 57% of Israelis said they would accept territorial compromise on the Golan in return for quiet on the border with Lebanon and withdrawal from the security zone**

strong and united army has been able to reassert its sovereignty over the country, apart from the Syrian controlled Bekaa Valley and the security zone in the south.

All the militias that fought in Lebanon's civil war have been disbanded with the exception of the Iranian-backed Hizbullah, which has also been serving Syria's interests.

A senior UN officer said that in the event of an IDF withdrawal, the Lebanese army would move its troops into the vacated areas. They would be backed by UNFIL which would deploy and hold a narrow strip along the length of the border.

Under such circumstances, said the officer, UNFIL would be able to play a more forceful role, although the Lebanese Army would be primarily responsible for restoring peace.

But what would stop Hizbullah or any other Lebanese or Palestinian militia from waging war near the border or attacking Galilee, especially in the absence

ernment could not afford to have an armed and well-trained militia around to threaten its stability.

Furthermore, the source noted, any attacks launched on Israel from Lebanon after an IDF withdrawal under the terms of 425 would be tantamount to an act of war.

There are those in Israel who believe that the presence of UNFIL along the border with the Lebanese army to the north could restrict the IDF's retaliatory capacity.

Others maintain that the situation would be much the same as now. The military would still have a range of targets to choose from, while on the diplomatic front Israel would have two new addresses — the Lebanese government and the UN, instead of just the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group.

That would still leave the delicate question of guaranteeing the safety of SLA soldiers and their families. According to the Western diplomatic source, the

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# Pursue Hizbullah from a 'God's-eye view'

There is a scene in the Hollywood movie *Apocalypse Now* where US Maj. Kilgore, played by Robert Duvall, is tossing out playing cards on top of dead Viet Cong fighters his men have just killed. "Two o'clubs, Jack o'hearts. Ace of spades," he reads off, as his aide tallies up the body count. If Hizbullah had wanted to do the same, it could have used over two full decks of cards this past year, representing the number of Israeli fighters killed serving on the country's last active front.

Israel lost 112 servicemen last year, including 73 in the helicopter collision 13 months ago. The 39 who died in operations in Lebanon constitute the highest single-year toll since the security zone was established in 1985.

Hizbullah losses were 60 for 1997 and 15 so far this year.

"The problem of Lebanon is first and foremost today one of casualties. The IDF is doing quite well against infiltrations, and civilians [in the north] are living relatively normal lives. But we are paying a price that the population doesn't find acceptable," says Shmuel Gordon, a reserve air-force colonel and former fighter pilot who once headed the IAF's Central Command Post, a battle management position.

Gordon is a freelance strategist who has done work for Israel's top think tanks, including Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies and the BESA Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University. He has developed what he says could be a revolutionary alternative to Israel's tactics fighting Hizbullah forces in south Lebanon.

Gordon cites the incident last month in which Sgt. Nikolai Rappaport was killed when a Hizbullah squad ambushed his Givati Brigade patrol, which was on its way to lay an ambush of its own.

"To lay an ambush you have to walk all the way to the site of the ambush, then sit back. It turns out that the soldiers spend more time being hunted than doing the hunting," Gordon says.

The Israeli Air Force, he stresses, could carry out the same mission with a fraction of the vulnerability.

Gordon proposes setting up a task force, headed by a senior officer, whose role would be to wage an all-out war against Hizbullah. The task force would coordinate between intelligence, land and air forces. Its main weapon of choice would be warplanes.

Reconnaissance and targeting would be conducted by unmanned aircraft and satellites, providing the task-force commander with a God's-eye perspective that can cement a victory, Gordon continues.

The force's control center would then be able to supply real-time intelligence on targets and scramble its forces to carry out an attack.

Within minutes, warplanes and attack helicopters would blast the targets with the lethal (albeit expensive) precision weaponry, keeping vulnerable troops far enough away from the enemy to avoid spending hours being "hunted."

Gordon even suggests adopting the American anti-guerrilla policy of using advanced warning and control systems (AWACS) and joint surveillance target-attack radar systems (JSTARS) in Lebanon, even though they are intended for use in a full-scale war.

"If we want to succeed we should use the most advanced technology. We shouldn't be 'saving it' for something else. This is a war and it should be used here," says Gordon, who has written two books on military strategy.

A veteran of three Arab-Israeli wars who shot down four MIGs, Gordon is a great proponent of air power. He believes that a strategy based on air strikes could in some places replace troop presence.

"The ground forces can certainly guard a line; I'm not saying where it has to be. But beyond this line of, say, between 5 and 10 kilometers, you can transfer large swaths to the responsibility and authority of the IAF," Gordon says.

This, he says, would allow the air force to deal with the problems on its own terms, without needing to obtain cumbersome approvals along the chain of command, as it must today.

CURRENT tactical policy in Lebanon is the responsibility of the Northern Command, which operates through the 91st Galilee territorial division.

Since OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine assumed his post in late 1994, he has tried to adopt more aggressive tactics in southern Lebanon.

Getting the air force more involved in Lebanon would not only cut IDF casualties but also wear Hizbullah down. Strategic expert and former fighter pilot Shmuel Gordon makes the case for air power. Arie O'Sullivan reports



"We are carrying out a great number of sorties today, but not efficiently"

For example, the IDF set up the small Egoz battalion two years ago and trained it to fight guerrillas.

Fighting guerrillas with guerrilla warfare was a revolutionary concept at the time. And the Egoz special force's aggressive tactics have consistently paid off.

Just last week, an Egoz unit spotted a Hizbullah squad and killed two of its members. This earned the unit widely reported praise this week from Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

The Northern Command has opened an anti-guerrilla school where troops headed for the front are trained in bush tactics.

But even senior IDF officers admit that shifting gears in the IDF monolith is a lengthy process.

The IDF has gained a lot of weight. It's a rich army with more sophisticated equipment than anybody else. But it is slow and cautious. The Defense Ministry and IDF senior command have often been accused of having a "frozen mindset."

Late last year, after the sharp rise in casualties, and increasingly vocal grass-roots groups calling for a unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai convened top IDF officers and defense officials to review its tactics.

It decided that the IDF would stay put in the security zone, make cosmetic alterations to its deployment and increase its fortifications there.

Gordon, however, says this was far from enough.

"Israel has never won a war defensively. The best way to fight guerrillas in the foreseeable future is through airborne measures," he says.

Gordon says the IAF doesn't have only air supremacy over southern Lebanon, but what he terms "air dominance," which means there can be constant and unrestricted presence in the skies.

"Aerial platforms should be almost always at hand, to be called upon whenever targets are sighted," he says.

Gordon says that today's precision-guided munitions should be used against Hizbullah targets, even if it appears like overkill. "Every time you kill someone it's a pure profit. Imagine if we killed one a day. That's 30 a month and 360 a year. It would create a revolution."

"It's not that they would have any trouble recruiting replacements; but the number of veteran fighters would slowly dwindle. They'd be left with inexperienced fighters who would be easier targets and make it harder for them to carry out daring operations."

THIS WEEK, Hizbullah displayed an extraordinary degree

of logistical ability and command-and-control expertise when it attacked the South Lebanese Army outpost at Ghazlun. As many as 70 Hizbullah fighters were believed to have taken part in the battle, which included diversionary attacks on other IDF and SLA positions.

Gordon believes the task force could devastate Hizbullah's capabilities quickly.

His task force would be centered around a control center, which would draw upon a planning branch composed of top commanders from commando units, intelligence and Air Force officers. Its job would be to locate targets in near-real time.

The third component of his task force would be the operational unit composed of fighter jets, attack helicopters, drones, and transport helicopters as well as commando units.

The task force should also have rescue forces at ready should aircraft be shot down.

"All these forces exist already, but they are sporadic and not concentrated on a single mission," Gordon explains.

THE IDF has, in fact, increased its use of its air power. Until August, the IAF was averaging about one air strike a week, but then it began hitting about every three days. By the end of the year the IAF had carried out 66 air raids, most of them against Hizbullah targets.

The quantity is not relevant, Gordon believes. "What is relevant is the target under the sights. As long as the air force doesn't take responsibility for identify-

ing the targets, finding and attacking them, then the results will stay small," Gordon says.

"We are carrying out a great number of sorties today, but not efficiently. My idea says that with the same funding we will be able to reach much better results. We shouldn't be bombing stones, but pure targets."

"The logistics are there. All of the electronic weaponry is there, but it is not under one hand."

"The IAF is a subcontractor and not an initiator. A subcontractor does the job and goes home. But an initiator doesn't just kill as asked. He also searches for targets," says Gordon.

"In war there are no guarantees, but an incident like Kafr Kana [where Hizbullah-hunting artillery killed over 100 civilians by mistake during Operation Grapes of Wrath in 1996] would never recur using accurate airborne weapons."

"This is provided, of course, that terrorists didn't seek shelter behind a civilian shield - which would turn any attack on them into a question of politics and not one of accuracy," Gordon points out.

He adds that precision weapons could be used whenever there was a fear of hitting civilians: "Every expert can tell you that airborne weapons are the most 'moral' there are."

"During World War II they were weapons of mass terror, but today they are the most accurate weapons in existence," Artillery, Gordon notes, is the most inaccurate.

On the record, IAF officials refuse to divulge their tactics in Lebanon or to say whether they are considering Gordon's task-force idea. But privately, senior air-force commanders have been pushing for a larger role in Lebanon.

"There is no substitute for ground forces," says one high-ranking IAF officer. "But the IAF can definitely do the job over the red line better and faster."

Air-force operations in enemy territory don't suffer from the deterioration that ground forces experience, through casualties, fatigue and time away from training for war.

"We are more accurate, more effective, more of a deterrence, less threat of casualties," says one officer.

"The deterrent effect is great," he adds, noting that Hizbullah no longer risks a barrage using many cannons; instead it has fallen back on isolated mortar fire.

"And one more thing," he says. "Lebanon gives our pilots very good training."

BUT IT is widely believed throughout the IDF that the air force doesn't win wars and can only be a support arm.

Officials say that Gordon's ideas are good, in theory, but would never work in southern Lebanon because no intelligence is sophisticated enough to replace ground forces.

Gordon does not hesitate to raise his idea of a task force in his meetings with top defense officials and air-force commanders. He has spoken about it at seminars and press conferences.

His believes that military commanders are too cautious to take on such a bold initiative as suggesting a task force be formed and that any change in the structure of the IDF needs to "come from above."

"The army only makes significant changes under two conditions; after either a disaster on the battlefield or a rift in its budget," Gordon says. "But we can be smart and do other things to



A base belonging to the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine moments after it was raided by IAF warplanes in 1995. "The best way to fight guerrillas in the foreseeable future is through airborne measures," believes Gordon. (AP)

head off this disaster."

He blames hesitation by the military on two things: a reluctance by air-force commanders to seek more responsibility for fear they will be held more accountable for failures, and fear by ground forces commanders that a larger air force will diminish their role and funding.

"Why don't they give the air force freedom of action, responsibility and authority? Because if it proves itself in Lebanon and brings results, it will have much more significant consequences

for the army and allocation of funding in the military," Gordon says.

"As long as there won't be a general or a colonel heading such a task force whose goal in life will be to kill terrorists and achieve results from an air war in Lebanon, then the results will stay the same," Gordon says.

But senior IDF officers almost all agree that the objective in south Lebanon is to keep the conflict simmering on a low flame - to reduce Israeli casualties without trying to wipe out Hizbullah.

Such an attempt, they say, would lead to Hizbullah remnants seeking other targets - perhaps more vulnerable Israeli or Jewish ones abroad.

"The air force can't be a total substitute," says Gordon. "Air power can reduce the gamble for a more defensive deployment. You can move the line back. Do whatever you want."

"The air force can give the freedom for the policymakers to make decisions, which is the supreme mission of the IDF in this instance."

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# They've got the Temple in their sights

A group of 'priestly children' raised in a compound built off the ground where they can stay pure and eventually purify the entire Jewish people? No movie scenario, this is a real project, writes Herb Keinon

Somewhere out there walks a pregnant woman who has made the decision to have her baby raised in a bubble. Not a hospital bubble designed to protect a child without a working immune system from the germs of this world — rather a halachic bubble to protect the child from being defiled by one of the myriad forms of impurity spelled out in the world of Halacha.

And it's all so that the child — a *kohen*, descendant of the priestly caste — will be able to handle the ashes of a red heifer and thereby purify the Jewish people, enabling them to engage in the services of the Temple.

This woman's decision has excited a small group of people who busy themselves with preparations for the building of the Third Temple. It has entertained much of the secular population for whom the concepts sound as if they are from another planet. And it has caused consternation to many religious Jews, both haredim and those from the national religious camp, who feel that a marginal group of people always seem to make headlines as a result of activities that place religious Judaism — and those who observe it — in a ridiculous light.

"As a religious Jew this phenomenon saddens and frightens me," said Shmuel Feiner, a lecturer in Jewish history at Bar-Ilan University. "That these people are able to grab headlines is, from the standpoint of a religious Jew concerned about the image of religious Jews, a tragedy."

"No wonder more and more nonreligious people see this and back away from it. And it is important to me what they think about us," Feiner says. "Judaism has a role to play in this world as well."

Another religious Jew, the rabbi of a national religious synagogue in Ramat Gan, called making such practical preparations now for the Temple is "an exaggeration."

"We don't have to deal with this

today," he said. "Study it? Yes. But practical preparations for building the Temple? That is way before its time."

This rabbi, who wouldn't identify himself — apparently out of fear of coming across as someone who doesn't believe in the rebuilding of the Temple — explained that way before the ground is prepared for any activity of this kind, a spiritual foundation has to be put into place.

"There is no way to carry out the building of the Temple now," he said, "so why attempt to practice something that is completely theoretical?"

"First people's hearts have to be prepared for the Temple — through education, not by taking children and raising them in some isolated compound."

"The nation isn't ready for this," the Ramat Gan rabbi emphasized. "Whoever eventually builds the Temple will worry about how to purify everyone."

IN AN enigmatic section in the Book of Numbers (chapter 19), the Torah speaks about the ashes of a red heifer, mixed together with hyssop, cedar wood and scarlet. This is required to purify people from contact with the dead, or with a bone, grave, or another person or vessel that has come into contact with the dead (*tumat hamet*).

This purification process is needed in order to engage in service of the tabernacle.

Since the ashes of the red heifer have been lost from around the time of the destruction of the Second Temple everyone is in a state of *tumat hamet* — which constitutes a major halachic obstacle for those interested in either renewing sacrifices or rebuilding the Temple.

All this explains why the birth last year of a red heifer at Kfar Hassidim caused such a stir among certain religious circles on the fringes.

And even though that particular



red heifer has since been found inadequate owing to the white hairs found on its tail, the existence of the heifer pushed the various groups dealing with the Temple into this quandary:

"What happens if we have a red heifer — but don't have anybody in the state of purity required to handle its ashes?"

It was out of this quandary, said Yosef Elboim, a rabbi at Jerusalem's Yeshivat Torat Habayit, which deals exclusively with laws pertaining to the Temple, that the idea arose of establishing a compound where babies whose fathers are *kohanim* would be born and raised until bar-mitzva age.

"There is a woman interested and the project is due to start in about two months," Elboim said. A number of other women have

expressed interest, including, according to press reports, some married to Kach activists.

The compound is to be situated in a settlement outside Jerusalem, but Elboim said that neither the settlement nor the parents involved are interested in media exposure. "They don't want all the publicity," he said.

THE IDEA is eventually to have a number of babies "enrolled" in the camp, which will be built in such a way — including elevation from the ground — as will ensure that *tumat hamet* cannot be transferred to the children. The children will remain in the compound until a red heifer is found, after which they will eventually prepare the mixture that will purify the Jewish people and enable them to go onto the Temple Mount and enter areas

that to date have been halachically off limits.

"Mothers and other visitors will have to wear special clothing to prevent impurity from the dead being transferred to the children."

Odd as the idea sounds, an arrangement in some respects similar is described in the Mishna.

In tractate *Para* (chapter 3), the Mishna describes a setup where courtyards in Jerusalem were built on hollow rock, through which *tumat hamet* does not pass, enabling pregnant women to go there, give birth and raise their children. The children would then be brought to the Temple to prepare the red heifer solution.

Historians, however, are skeptical that the procedure was ever actually carried out.

TO SOME, the question of whether the Mishna was retelling something that really happened or not is irrelevant.

"We are living in 1998; all those historical periods are past," Feiner said. "You can't take those texts and try to put them into practice today."

"People who tried to do this type of thing do horrible things," he added soberly. "Remember Purim a few years ago, when [Baruch Goldstein] took texts [literally] and said we need to wreak vengeance on Amalek today?"

Feiner explained how commentators throughout Jewish history understood that each generation has the texts appropriate for it.

"There are many tracts not used today — no one has said to get up and start putting them into practice after thousands of years," Feiner observed dryly.

"We don't observe all 613 commandments," he pointed out, stressing that "rational Judaism lives in this world, not cut off from the world, the times, the period, the [current] generation and its real problems."

"There are so many things Judaism can deal with — social problems, poverty, unemployment. But for some reason, Judaism does not raise its voice enough in these areas," Feiner commented that it was no wonder that activities such as a compound for *kohanim* were being carried out "by people with a messianic view."

Aryeh Morgenstern, a researcher at Hebrew University's Jewish history department, has studied Jewish messianic developments of the last few hundred years. He said there have in the past been a number of moves to look into the feasibility of bringing sacrifices on the Temple Mount.

"There have been many varied attempts — through magic and mysticism — to bring the redemption closer," he said. "There have been attempts by kabbalists through prayer, intense study, and

learning Jewish laws pertaining to the Temple. In Lurianic Kabbala, there are different means which were thought could bring the redemption closer."

This approach — participating in actions aimed at speeding up the redemption — has to a large extent been incorporated into normative Judaism, Morgenstern said, with most observant Jews believing that their prayers, study, and observance of the *mitzvot* do something to further the process.

But what sets the plan for a compound for *kohanim* apart, Morgenstern said, is that it is not being done in an effort to bring the redemption closer, but rather as practical preparation for a redemption which those involved in the plan seem to believe is just around the corner.

It can be argued that making plans for rebuilding the Temple is a logical extension of religious Zionism, which is premised on the idea that one does not wait for redemption but takes an active part in it.

This is what has set religious Zionism apart from haredi Judaism: the idea that one doesn't sit back and wait for God to lead the people back to Israel, but inserts oneself into the historical process.

But compounds for infant *kohanim*? That's a type of insertion into the process that most people in the national religious camp feel uncomfortable with.

"IT ONLY sounds crazy because we live in a crazy world," said Rabbi Haim Tabasky, a rabbi at Bar-Ilan University's Institute for Advanced Torah Studies.

"It is cognitive dissonance. It doesn't fit in with the way we see the world."

This doesn't make it irrational, or illogical, the rabbi said, it just makes it weird. "The idea of such a compound doesn't fit into the way we see ourselves running our lives."

Although Tabasky termed a compound to separate babies from their families a non-starter, he said he could imagine a community of some 50 families devoted to the idea living in such a community free from what is halachically defined as impurity.

"I don't know why that would be crazier than any other utopian communities that have been set up," he said.

TRADITIONALLY, said a scholar who straddles both the haredi and national religious worlds by living in haredi Bnei Brak and teaching Torah at a national religious yeshiva, "there have been two approaches to Jewish eschatology."

The first approach was brought down by Rashi: that the Temple will descend from heaven, kind of like a flying saucer, and land in Jerusalem. That was the view

taken by the hassidim — the rebuilding of the Temple is supernatural; it will fall onto the Temple Mount, everything will be taken care of."

The other view, said the rabbi, who does not want to become publicly involved in the debate, is Maimonides's. It holds that the Temple will not fall out of the sky but will be built by the Messiah.

The Vilna Gaon goes a step further, maintaining that the Temple will be built before the Messiah. But Morgenstern, an authority on the Vilna Gaon, said that the Vilna Gaon was speaking theoretically. He did not mean this to be taken literally; he didn't intend people to go out and begin the groundwork.

"Most normal people who follow Halacha," said the scholar from Bnei Brak, "think this type of activity is crazy because they have been conditioned to adhere to Rashi's interpretation. Most haredim, and even most people in the national religious camp, think there are more important things to do today in Judaism."

But for the small group dealing with Temple-related laws and activities there is nothing more important.

In recent years a number of groups have sprouted up dealing with the Temple — everything from spreading information on the Temple to building utensils that can be used in the Temple.

The most recent plan seems something of an attempt by one of these groups to show that the movement isn't standing in place, but moving forward.

Religious laws have been learned, utensils have been made, work is being done on procuring a red heifer. According to this mindset, the next logical move is preparing *kohanim* to deal with the red heifer.

The Temple-active groups include many different types of personalities, from those who only want to go up to the Temple Mount to pray, today forbidden, to those who — albeit privately — advocate blowing up the mosques on it and rebuilding the Third Temple.

Elboim, from Yeshivat Torat Habayit, said the Arabs needn't feel threatened by the most recent plan.

"They don't have to worry," he said. "We don't, heaven forbid, encourage any act against the mosques."

"We don't want an argument with them. We don't believe we have to build the Temple in blood. The problem is one of will. We had the will to come to Israel, so we came."

"It is easier to build one house to God than to establish independence in a land without a nation. If we want [the Temple], help will come from heaven; and it is possible that even the nations of the world will agree."

Forget the nations of the world. At this point, Elboim's detractors include most of this country's religious Jews.

Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron said, in response to the initiative, "If people are doing these things in order to understand them and not for any kind of gain, that's one thing. There's enough material for study. So they should study, and wait for the Messiah."

"But if they are doing it out of a political orientation, or to speed up the end [of days], that's something else. Then it is dangerous."

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A Beduin girl on the disputed site that was bulldozed by the IDF and police last month. After nine days without shelter, residents were given tents by the UN and Red Cross. In the background is Ma'aleh Adumim. (Debbie Hill)



"They just loaded all our belongings into the trucks and drove them off to the garbage dump. Then the bulldozers started destroying our sheds" — Ghassan Suleiman Jahalin Salamati (Debbie Hill)

## Pushed to the edge

Civil Administration bulldozers left their mark on the Beduin camp where 35 families live just east of Ma'aleh Adumim. Their tin-and-wood shack homes are in pieces. A stream of drying mud, old toilet paper, sanitary napkins and diapers runs through the camp, courtesy of a sewage pipe apparently broken during the demolitions.

Since Sunday, the families have been living in tents provided by UNRWA and the Red Cross or lent by other Beduin in the area. For nine nights beforehand they had to sleep without shelter under the winter skies as the Civil Administration wouldn't allow them to pitch any tents until the High Court of Justice intervened on Sunday. Between exposure to the night air and the proximity of the sewage, about 50 children and old people took sick, said Ghassan Suleiman Jahalin Salamati, one of the few Beduin who speaks Hebrew.

The camp is in a green, rocky valley right off the side of the Jerusalem-Jericho highway. Sheep graze on the slopes — their pens were also destroyed. Looking down from the next hilltop to the west are the apartment buildings and duplexes of Ma'aleh Adumim, the largest of West Bank settlements and a suburb of Jerusalem. The bulldozers, trucks, soldiers and police had entered the Beduin camp on February 16.

"It happened about 8:30 in the morning," recalls Salamati. "We didn't know what they wanted. They didn't give us any warning. They just loaded all our belongings — clothing, food, radios, everything — into the trucks and drove them off to the garbage dump. Then the bulldozers started destroying our sheds."

Rabbi Jeremy Milgrom of Rabbis for Human Rights, which has been helping the Beduin in recent years, heard what was going on and went out to the dump site.

"The trucks were pouring the Beduin's things onto the dump

The High Court of Justice gave the Jahalin, a Beduin tribe near Ma'aleh Adumim, a temporary reprieve this week. Their tents are not to be destroyed. Instead, they have 10 days to resolve a decade-old dispute with the Civil Administration, Larry Derfner writes

like it was gravel," he said.

Lt. Peter Lerner, spokesman for the Civil Administration, gives a different account. Lerner says that the Beduin were told repeatedly, in person and on paper, that they were trespassing on state-owned land and would have to move.

The Beduin, Lerner continues, were offered an alternate site — in a valley near the main entrance to Ma'aleh Adumim, where some 40 other families from their tribe, the Jahalin, have been living in tin sheds for over a year.

"We offered to assist [the 35 families in the bulldozed camp] — to move their belongings peacefully and quietly to the alternate site, but they refused," Lerner says.

He says he knows nothing about Milgrom's contention that the tribe's belongings were trucked to the Jerusalem municipal garbage dump, about half a kilometer from the alternate site.

"Some of the Beduin helped us fold up their tents. Whatever personal belongings they didn't take with them were transported, along with the tents, and left in a mound at the alternate site," Lerner maintains. Salamati contends that the tents and belongings were buried at the garbage dump.

The sewage pipe which carries waste from Ma'aleh Adumim is no longer flowing through the 35 families' camp. Salamati accuses the Civil Administration of breaking it open deliberately to make their lives so miserable that they would leave.

"That's ridiculous," counters Lerner. "One of the bulldozers

broke the pipe by mistake. It was an accident. We immediately got Ma'aleh Adumim to fix it. It took them three or four days, but they fixed it."

The Beduin and the Civil Administration are at odds on many points, but one thing they both agree on is that the families have been left in bad circumstances, and that the nine nights they had to spend without shelter was a particular hardship.

"A doctor from the Red Cross came to examine the sick. We had to take some of the children and old people to a clinic or to a hospital," says Salamati.

To this, Lerner replies that, "As much as it hurt us to take their tents down, we offered to move them peacefully to the other site, but they refused."

His comments do not explain why it could have been so urgent to move down the camp and leave nearly 200 people without shelter. The Jahalin say they had been living at the site since the early 1950s; the Civil Administration dates their arrival to the late 1980s. Ma'aleh Adumim plans to build a 3,000-unit neighborhood on the site, although construction does not appear to be imminent.

Lerner says that Ma'aleh Adumim had nothing to do with the decision. "There really wasn't any time factor involved. The implementation of the laws is an ongoing activity," he said.

According to Shlomo Lecker, the Jahalin's attorney, the bulldozing was "part of a clear pattern to expand the settlements and give

the state control over as much land as possible in the West Bank." Milgrom calls it "a classic colonial tactic. A beautiful culture is being destroyed because someone has grand plans to dominate the landscape with concrete and asphalt."

Benny Kashriel, the mayor of Ma'aleh Adumim, insists, "We very much want the Beduin to live as our neighbors, just not on the land we plan to develop."

Another 40-odd Jahalin families living in the valley at the settlement's entrance had been living on another part of Ma'aleh Adumim's land, but were moved in January 1997 to make way for construction of the settlement's new "06" neighborhood.

The 35 Jahalin families who have just been evicted are welcome to join them, Kashriel said.

All told there are about 350 Jahalin families living in the vicinity of Ma'aleh Adumim, said Salamati. Many work as gardeners and janitors in the settlement. "We have no problems with Ma'aleh Adumim. We help them, they help us," he said. "After the Civil Administration destroyed our homes, some of the people from Ma'aleh Adumim came by and said, 'This is wrong.' One or two of them brought clothes and things for the children."

Another disputed point is the reason behind the refusal of the families evicted last week to join fellow tribesmen at the alternate site.

"It would bring a vast improvement in their status," says Lerner. "They would be able to register the land in their own names — to

have land of their own and be able to prove it. It also has electricity, and better conditions for building."

Kashriel maintains that the 35 families are afraid to move because Palestinian Authority officials are using them as a wedge against Ma'aleh Adumim's expansion, and have threatened the Beduin not to quit the camp.

But Salamati says that while PA officials have talked to them, there have been no threats. The Beduin's objection, he says, is that the camp at the entrance to Ma'aleh Adumim is "too small. It's not good for Beduin. There's not enough room for our sheep to roam, let alone for us to live in. The Beduin there aren't happy. It's too close to the Arab housing on one side, and on the other side Ma'aleh Adumim keeps building closer and closer to them. We're afraid that if we move there, they'll move us again, and then again, until we have no place left."

THE JAHALIN tribe originated in the area of Arad. After the War of Independence, Salamati says, "The Israelis told our grandfathers to leave, and our grandfathers didn't understand anything, so they left."

They wandered through the West Bank and ended up where they are now.

"We want to stay here, but if we can't, we'd like to go back to Arad," he says. This obviously won't happen — the Jahalin are not Israeli citizens, but refugees. "If we can't stay here or go back to Arad," Salamati suggests, "then we'd like some land somewhere between here and Jericho, some place where we'd have room."

Kashriel considers this a reasonable option. "There's plenty of land between here and Jericho to give them," he says.

Lerner, however, says the Civil Administration won't agree. "It's not realistic," he says. "We're not going to let the Beduin take any piece of land they want, anywhere they want."

The High Court ruled in 1995



Benny Kashriel, Mayor of Ma'aleh Adumim: "We very much want the Beduin to live as our neighbors, just not on the land we plan to develop." (Bruno Sharvit)

that the Jahalin were subject to laws regarding state-owned land, and were not entitled to settle without Israeli approval.

"The moral argument against this is that the laws regarding state land favor one nation over another. Why shouldn't state land benefit all the people living on it, not just the Jews?" demands Milgrom.

State-owned land in the territories has only been given to the Jewish settlements, he says. Lerner maintains that some state land was given to Palestinian villages in the 1980s.

On Sunday the court ordered the Civil Administration not to tear down the 35 families' tents for 10 days, and advised the

Administration to try to reach an agreement with the Beduin. Lerner says the administration will likely negotiate, but in all probability will continue to offer the Beduin only one option: to move to the camp at the entrance to Ma'aleh Adumim.

And if the Beduin continue to refuse? "Then I don't know what will happen," Lerner said.

At the campsite off the Jerusalem-Jericho highway, a Beduin man escorts a reporter and photographer to their cars. They pass the pieces of broken sheds which look like so many twigs sticking out of the ground. He says, "Yihyei tov — inshallah [it'll work out for the best — if God wills it]."

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# Swimming against the stream

Leading Egyptian political writer Lutfi el-Khouli has been hounded by his country's intellectuals on account of his relations with the Israeli peace movement. Abraham Rabinovich spoke to him in Tel Aviv



El-Khouli: 'I began to think - will we go on forever having wars with each other?' (Israel Hadash)

There are no salmon in the Nile, but that determined fish could serve as an apt symbol for Lutfi el-Khouli, one of the foremost political writers in the Arab world, whose proclivity for swimming against the stream brought him this week to Israel.

Despite an almost total boycott of Israel by Egyptian intellectuals, despite his own long tenure at the forefront of the anti-peace-with-Israel movement and despite warnings that he would be drummed out of Egypt's Journalists' Association and Lawyers' Association should he consort with Israelis, el-Khouli came to Tel Aviv to confer with representatives of the Israeli peace camp.

"It will be hell when I get back," said el-Khouli, who writes a political column in *Al-Ahram* and appears frequently on radio and television programs in the Arab world. "They have already begun to call me a traitor."

A Marxist who helped found the most left-wing party in Egypt, the Progressive Coalition, el-Khouli was recently confronted with a demand by the party's executive committee that he renounce his contacts with Israelis and apologize for them. He chose to resign from the party instead.

"I used to be like everyone else, against Israel all the way," he said in an interview. "I was general secretary of the National Coalition Against Camp David and general secretary of the National Committee Supporting the Palestinian Intifada. Then my thinking changed."

The intifada itself was one of the reasons. "I began to think 'Will we go on forever having wars with each other?'" [Former prime minister Yitzhak] Rabin was also changed by the intifada. From a man of war he became a man of peace."

Another reason for his own change of heart, said el-Khouli,

was the end of the Cold War and the breakup of the Soviet Union and eastern bloc. "The world had changed. It was time for us to change too. It was clear that neither the Israelis nor the Arabs can impose their will on the other. It was time to find a peaceful com-

promise. This starts by each side recognizing and respecting the other."

He visited Israel for the first time two years ago and subsequently helped found the still lonely Arab Peace Movement in Cairo.

It is ironic, el-Khouli acknowledges, that the broad Egyptian public favors peace with Israel while the intellectuals oppose it. "The ordinary man doesn't want a repeat of 50 years of war. But the intellectuals see Israel as a tool of the West. Especially during the Cold War, they saw Israel as an instrument of an aggressive American policy toward the Arab world and they still harbor those feelings. They also see Israel continuing to occupy Palestinian land despite the Oslo agreement."

Even among these intellectuals, however, something basic has changed, says el-Khouli. "Acceptance of Israel's existence and its right to security is no longer questioned. That is certain. It was a process that began with Camp David and continued with the Madrid Conference. The Oslo agreement made it final. They are prepared now to accept Israel as a natural state in the region. But a Middle East state, not a Western state."

What would make Israel a Middle Eastern state?

"That is for Israelis to decide. There are many tendencies in Israel and they must choose among them. But not a Greater Israel. Otherwise, there will be a search for Greater Palestine and Greater Syria and where will it end? We want to live in peace and dignity and equality."

During his stay in Tel Aviv, el-Khouli delivered an address at the Rabin Center and participated in a meeting of the Copenhagen Group, the only Middle East peace movement involving Israelis, Egyptians, Jordanians and Palestinians.

The group, which held its founding meeting in the Danish capital at the beginning of last year, consists of intellectuals and other activists who believe that the peace process is too important to be left exclusively to governments. Among its Israeli members are David Kinche, formerly a senior figure in the Mossad and a director-general of the Foreign Ministry; Prof. Shimon Shamir, former ambassador to Egypt and Jordan; political scientist Ron Pundak, one of the architects of the Oslo agreements; and former head of military intelligence Gen. (res.) Shlomo Gazit.

El-Khouli says that his decision to become part of the Copenhagen Group stems from his conclusion that Arab and Israeli peace seekers have to join forces in order to confront the forces in their countries opposed to peace, and to face down their governments. "This is a new phenomenon - Israelis and Arabs searching together for a common ground for peace."

High on el-Khouli's list of the enemies of peace is the present Israeli government. "If [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu continues his present policies I am sure it will bring us to a new confrontation. In my opinion, that is what he is trying to do. I don't know if it would be war or whether it would take some other form. 'Netanyahuism' is poisoning everything. Everything."

"People in Egypt tell me that I have illusions when I speak of peace. Netanyahu, they say, represents all of the Israelis except for an insignificant minority. I say 'No, Israel is not monolithic.' But it is difficult to understand how, in spite of the narrow margin by which he won, Netanyahu has managed to impose his will on his party, on the coalition, on the government. He keeps making blunders, but comes out of it every time."

The outspoken Egyptian expresses disappointment at the Israeli opposition for what he regards as its lack of fighting spirit. "I know there are brave Israelis who are ready to walk with the Arabs and support a Palestinian state. But this visit has raised for me some questions about Israeli democracy."

"Where is the opposition to Netanyahu? He behaves like a one-man show. He keeps giving the anti-peace forces in the Arab world more and more ammunition."

"When I talk about this to my Israeli friends they say they are aware of the danger but ask, 'What can we do?'"

At the session of the Copenhagen steering committee which he attended at the Dan Hotel it was decided to hold an international conference in Israel in June dedicated to the question of saving the peace process. His fears for the future, says el-Khouli, make him more determined than ever to work with like-minded Israelis despite the troubles this will bring down upon his head in Egypt and despite the present Israeli government; indeed, because of it.

"The peace process is dying," he says. "An alliance of forces is needed to save it."



Anyone for tennis? (From left) Tal Brody, Leah Rabin, Ya'acov Sudri and Liora Gertler at this year's Yitzhak Rabin tournament. (Silvan Parag)

## Double dose of romance

Weddings are nothing if not romantic occasions. But for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara the wedding at Gan Oranim of Israel Airports Authority chairman Tzvi Shalom to Natalie Sharon was doubly romantic. The event coincided with the Netanyahu's seventh wedding anniversary, and the proprietors of Gan Oranim made sure that the couple celebrated in style by providing an enormous cake. The Netanyahu, like the bride and groom, kissed after the ceremony.

The groom is the brother of Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, whose wife Judy Shalom Nir Mozes couldn't wait till the end of the festivities, because she had an appointment at Israel Radio for her weekly late-night talk show.

IT WAS a poignant victory last Friday for Leah Rabin. She was one of the trophy winners at the Second Annual Yitzhak Rabin Tennis Tournament at the Dan Accadia Hotel, a venue where her husband played many a game himself.

Rabin won the doubles trophy together with Ya'acov Sudri, general manager of the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv. They trounced Liora Gertler, a senior employee at the Ramat Hasharon Tennis Center and wife of diamond dealer Amiram Gertler, who partnered former basketball star Tal Brody 7-2. Spectators could also watch showcase games between Israeli tennis superstars Shachar Perkin and Shlomo Glickstein.

KNOWN throughout the Jewish world as the "Songbird of the Jews of Silence," Nehama Lifshitz doesn't sing very much these days, but she gives melodic poetry readings in which she hovers between singing and reciting. She still has a great following among immigrants from the former USSR, as does singer Ruth Levin, whose repertoire includes many of the melodies of her late father, composer and performer Leib Levin, who was also well known in the Soviet Union. Lifshitz and Levin appeared with popular story teller Yossi Birshtain at the Y.L. Peretz Club in Tel Aviv. All received spirited ovations.

AS THE first anniversary of the death of Chaim Herzog, Israel's sixth president, approaches, there are more and more memorial events in his honor. These will continue at least until September, when Herzog's family, friends and associates mark the 80th anniversary of his birth.

The most recent memorial event took place last week in the Tel Aviv-based law offices of Herzog Fox Neeman, which Herzog founded in 1972 with outstanding British lawyer Michael Fox, who settled in Israel after the Six Day War, and distinguished law professor Yaakov Neeman, the current finance minister.

The firm's conference room was dedicated as the Chaim Herzog Room, and memories of the firm's founder were shared not only by Herzog's former partners but by several prominent lawyers who graduated from HFN.

Among them were Josh Rosenzweig, Lipsa Meir and Shlomo Heller, who is Koor's chief legal counsel. Also present was Hebrew University vice president Moshe Arad, who joined HFN after his term as Israel's ambassador in Washington.

Both Fox and Neeman noted that although Herzog is most frequently remembered as a soldier and statesman, his role as lawyer and jurist should not be forgotten. He set precedents in the Supreme Court with cases which seemed unwinnable, earning high praise from judges for the manner in which he represented his clients.

Herzog's wife Aura recalled that her husband was already in his 50s when he founded what is today one of the country's leading law firms. "He loved the law," she said.

Herzog's youngest son Isaac is one of 13 partners in the firm which now employs over 40 lawyers.

TOURISM may be flagging, but it seems mayors, deputy mayors and city councillors are not afraid to tread where Scuds might fall. Some 750 of them from 56 countries turned up this week to participate in the Union of Local Authorities Twin Cities Convention in Jerusalem.

All were lauded by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, their host at the opening reception at Binyanei Ha'uma, who told them he was "exceptionally happy that none of you found good reason to cancel your visit at this time. Only 10 days ago people were wondering what was happening in the Middle East."

Olmert risked the ire of conference organizers by advising his colleagues from abroad not to stick to the schedule but to play hooky and take a walk around Jerusalem. "The reality is different from reports you've read in your newspapers," he said.

But those who wandered into east Jerusalem the following day found that the city wasn't quite as united as Olmert had portrayed it. Arab merchants, acting on Fatih orders, had gone on strike.

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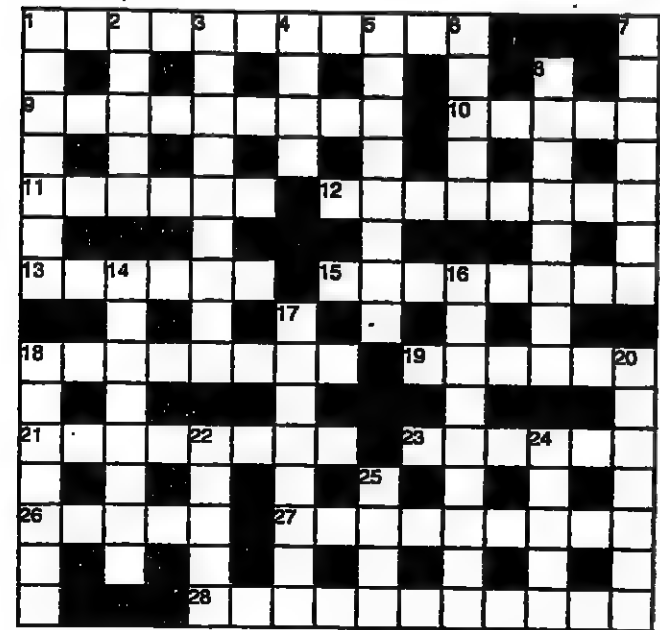
#### ACROSS

- 1 Consolidating money in the future (11)
- 9 Calibre of silver to be used when working with unknown quantities (9)
- 10 Loves to include a book that's moulding (5)
- 11 Yet doc managed to find a cell without a nucleus (6)
- 12 Dip it in extremes of imagery and give it a name (8)
- 13 Vegetable to stick in a fish's back (6)
- 15 Profit from a hobby (8)
- 18 Refusing to make a fuss about a foot problem (5)
- 19 Postpone call up in a way (6)
- 21 Staying power of a small number attached to a large conurbation (8)

- 23 Very upset that silver has the first sign of tarnish (6)
- 26 One who has an unhappy look - missing father perhaps (5)
- 27 make a couple of notes on the first four tricky types of exercise (9)
- 28 Officers employed instead of those in occupation (11)

#### DOWN

- 1 Risk taken by liberal wing of the church (7)
- 2 It could be the required strength (5)
- 3 It's a mistake to summon bad person to investigate a complaint (9)
- 4 Close to being miserly (4)



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### QUICK CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS

- 1 Counter (6)
- 4 Extent (5)
- 8 Darkness (5)
- 9 One who lays bare (7)
- 10 Take out (7)
- 11 Stumble (4)
- 12 Cutter (3)
- 14 Boy's name (4)
- 15 Sole (4)
- 18 Fish (3)
- 21 Foolish (7)
- 22 Transfers (7)
- 23 Working hard (7)
- 26 Saltpetre (5)
- 27 Correct (5)
- 28 Alters (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Sore (6)
- 2 Ship (7)
- 3 Doorway (8)
- 4 Despatched (4)
- 5 Arrangement (5)
- 6 Continent (6)
- 7 Revises (5)
- 13 Became more severe (8)
- 16 Illuminate (5,2)
- 17 Hole (6)
- 19 Enormous (5)
- 20 Fix the amount (6)
- 22 Smart (5)
- 24 Closed hand (4)

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WINDOWS NT MCSE Regular Track (8 courses)	Oct. 5	Feb. 10
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BET HAKEREM: 5, COTTAGE, new, large terrace, Tel. 02-561-1451, 052-521-803, BROKERS, (68)

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HABITAT REAL ESTATE, GERMAN Colony, 5.5, luxurious cottage, bright, balcony, private entrance, \$2,000, Darna, 02-561-1222, (68)  
E-mail: portico@netvision.net.il

MEVASSERET, COTTAGE, LUXURIOUS, 5 rooms, brand new, separate parents unit, private parking, Tel. 02-581-7775, 02-581-8688.

## DWELLINGS

### Jerusalem Area

REHAVIA, PENTHOUSE/APARTMENT, LUXURY, terraces, quiet, breathtaking view, EXCLUSIVE PROPERTIES, Tel. 03-560-809, (020533)

MORASHA, 3, ARAB style, view of Old City, high standard, Tel. 050-505-333, (12758)

RAMOT-ARAZIM, NEW LUXURY cottage, garden, pool, parking, Special price!!! BETTER BAYIT, Tel. 02-563-8345, (14540)

KIRYAT SHMUEL, 2.5, NEAR President's house, ground floor, garden access, quiet, bright, Exclusive to MERHAV REAL ESTATE SALES & MANAGEMENT, Tel. 02-566-1595, (68)

RAMAT ESHKOL, 4, MODERNIZED, quiet, elevator, high floor not top view, must sell. Only \$249,000. Exclusive to MERHAV REAL ESTATE SALES & MANAGEMENT, Tel. 02-566-1595, (68)

AMBASSADOR EXCLUSIVE, EXCEPTIONAL, Rehavia, 6.5 rooms, private entrance, terrace, large well kept garden, quiet, Tel. 02-561-9101, (68)

CENTRAL BET HAKEREM, 5, spacious, well lit & kept, amazing view, 7th floor, \$250,000 only. Exclusive to SHIRAN through RUT ANGLIA, Tel. 02-676-6660, (68)

EFRAI "A GOOD Place to Live In", plots, houses, cottages, new & 2nd-hand apartments (also rentals), MIRIAM REALTY, Tel. 02-563-1853, (68)

GIVAT ORANIM, OLD KATAMON, San Simon, 5, beautiful & large, private entrance, 2nd floor, option for studio, \$455,000, SELA REALTY, Tel. 02-673-1306, (68)

JERUSALEM TOWERS, 2,3,4 room apartments, high floor, view of Old City, parking & store room, Exclusive to SHIRAN through CENTURY 21 MODEL, NADLAN, Tel. 02-561-1880, (68)

RARE, BAKA PENTHOUSE, building like-new, 6 + gallery (150 sq. m.), terraces (100 sq. m.), private elevator, view, storage, parking, exclusive SHIRAN through T.O.P. REALTORS, Tel. 02-629-4213, (68)

REHAVIA (TERRA-SANCTA), 3, NEW, luxurious, elevator, balconies, parking, MIRA REALTORS, Tel. 02-671-6648, (68)

TALBIEH, 4, ARAB style, large, well organized, beautiful, \$445,000, MISHKELOT KING DAVID, Tel. 02-569-9310, (68)

OLD KATAMON, DUPLEX, new luxurious, quiet, light, view, parking, AVI KORN, Tel. 02-671-9740, (68)

TSUR, HADASSAH, VILLA, 240 m. built + separate unit, view, dead-end, large garden, Tel. 02-533-4354, (791797)

RAMOT BET, COTTAGE, 7, garden, view, parking, 2 entrances, Tel. 02-561-5031, (791987)

AMBASSADOR EXCLUSIVE, TEL-HAI (Old Katamon), 3, first floor, Arab house, private heating, unusual design, Tel. 02-561-9101, (68)

ARNONAH!! STYLISH and well designed, 4.5, upper daph, terraces, view, parking, storeroom, exclusive to AVI KORN, Tel. 02-671-9740, (68)

BAYIT VEGAN (JIZEL), 4, large, needs work, immediate, bet. off. GERRY FARKAS, Tel. 02-983-3247 (NS), (15139)

EFRAI-CESTRIL, PRIVATE house, 252 m. built on 1/2 dunam. Possible for 2 units, Tel. 050-672-818.

EFRAI: CORNER COTTAGE, 220 sq. m., 7 rooms, large garden, view, parking, condition, location, GERRY FARKAS, Tel. 02-983-3247, (14549)

ETHIOPIAN QUARTER, UNIQUE villa on 400 m. plot + building rights, Exclusive YE'ELIM REALTY, Tel. 02-532-1159, (68)

FREE STANDING BUILDING, private home enclave, near Shaare Chesed, \$1,500,000, Best Real Estate, Tel. 02-565-5663, (18265)

GIVAT CANADA, 200m. beautiful penthouse, 5 rooms, l.v. area, Master bedroom 40 meters, jacuzzi, shower, and toilet + 50 meters of balconies. Beautifully kept. Complete kitchen, immediate, US\$420,000, Tel. 02-6781644 evenings, Service only.

GIVAT HAMIVTAR, VILLA, 10 with large garden, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Tel. 02-625-1161, (68)

GREEK COLONY, DUPLEX, 4, new, small building, elevator, balconies, Exclusive to AVI KORN, Tel. 02-671-9740, (68)

HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Rasco, 4 rooms, two bathrooms, elevator, parking, \$245,000, Channa, Tel. 02-561-1222, e-mail: portico@netvision.net.il

HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Central (King George), 3, spacious, elevator, central heating, views, \$275,000, Ehud, Tel. 02-561-1222, (68)  
e-mail: portico@netvision.net.il

HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Rehavia (Abanana), 3, large rooms, excellent location, floor \$300,000, Tel. Darna 02-561-1222, e-mail: portico@netvision.net.il

HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Givat Oranim, 4, 115 meters, elevator, private heating, \$360,000, Tel. 02-561-1222, (68)  
e-mail: portico@netvision.net.il

HAR NOF, 5 + roof 120 m. + built 30 m. + storage 20 m., \$280,000, MILLER, Tel. 02-534-1150, 050-611-447, (68)

HAR NOF, COTTAGE-LIKE VILLA, very well invested, Swiss-like view, Tel. 02-551-8569, 052-693-004, 05-923-1358, (15125)

HOLYLAND!!! PENTHOUSE, LUXURIOUS and special in exclusive home, (200 m. living space) + terraces, wide view, Tel. 052-601-844, 050-930-550, (68)

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NACHLAT, 4, SPACIOUS, small garden, quiet, \$325,000, ANGLO SAXON, Tel. 02-625-1161, (68)

PISGAT ZEEV: 5, luxurious, garden, central air, Tel. 02-651-1451, 052-521-803, BROKERS, (68)

RAMAT DANYA (LEIBOVITZ), cottage, 5, renovated, garden, terrace, ANGLO SAXON, Tel. 02-625-1161, (68)

RAMAT SHLOMO, 8, cottage, new, garden, terraces, Tel. 02-651-1451, 052-521-803, BROKERS, (68)

## DWELLINGS

### Jerusalem Area

RAMOT BET, 4.5, excellent location, magnificent view, storage-room, \$220,000, ANGLO SAXON, Tel. 02-625-1161, (68)

REHAVIA (MARROSS), 3, second floor, spacious, sunny, \$250,000, ANGLO SAXON, Tel. 02-625-1161, (68)

SEEKING QUALITY OF LIFE! Old Katamon, 4, nice, quiet building, elevator, Exclusive to ACTIVE MODEL, Tel. 052-675-100, 02-561-9554, (68)

TALBIEH, 4, 2ND, elevator, balconies, near Yemin Moche, \$290,000, ROMAN REALTY, Tel. 02-563-4077, (12751)

AHUZA YERUSHALAYIM, 5, garden, private entrance, parking (on private land), immediate, \$350,000, Tel. 02-566-6371, (12791)

RAMOT, KADIMA, TERRACED apartment, 5, + balconies, + gardens, + parking, improved, Tel. 02-568-8563, 02-623-2591, (14271)

ABU-TOR HOUSE - private, garden, chandelier, renovation, "SHIRAN" exclusive through "REAVIM REAL ESTATE", Tel. 02-673-1862 (C.R.E.B.), (68)

ABU-TOR NEW - 5 + garden, sunny, no stairs, immediate!! "SHIRAN" exclusive through "REAVIM REAL ESTATE", Tel. 02-673-1862 (C.R.E.B.), (68)

AMBASSADOR EXCLUSIVE, WOLFSON, 3rd floor, 4, quiet, Shabbat elevator, Tel. 02-561-9101, (68)

BAKA INVESTMENT - 2 + TERRACE, quiet, greenery, ideal for single, "SHIRAN" exclusive through "REAVIM REAL ESTATE", Tel. 02-673-1862 (C.R.E.B.), (68)

BET-HAKEREM, 2 + dinette, duplex, terrace, modern, quiet, south, T.A.C. Tel. 02-563-1784, (68)

BEST OF TALBIEH: super 6 rooms, luxurious, balconies, view, "T.A.C.", Tel. 02-563-1784, (68)

BEN KEREM, 3, garden, view, Rehavia, (El Hassel), 2, luxurious, "T.A.C.", Tel. 02-563-1784, (68)

FOR THOSE WHO can appreciate! Baka, Arab house, special, building permit, AVI KORN, Tel. 02-671-9740, (68)

GERMAN-COLONY, TRENDY AREA, luxury penthouse, 4 + terrace, elevator, CORINNE DAVAR, Tel. 02-673-3385, (68)

GERMAN-COLONY, 3.5, BRIGHT, central, very quiet, superb balcony, modern, "MERHAV REAL ESTATE SALES AND MANAGEMENT", Tel. 02-566-1595, (68)

GREEK COLONY, EXCLUSIVE, project, duplex, 5, 156 m., elevator, balconies, AVI KORN, Tel. 02-671-9740, (68)

KING DAVID COURT, 2, luxury, immediate, \$250,000, Exclusive to AMBASADOR, Tel. 02-561-9101, (68)

KIRYAT SHMUEL (ITAMAR BEN-ZVI), 3 (1 small), completely renovated, Tel. 02-563-1784, (68)

KIRYAT SHMUEL, 4, spacious, + dinette, + 3 balconies, view of Knesset, + elevator, Rehavia, 3, + terrace, + view, Old Katamon, 5.5 + yard + private entrance, BEN ZVI, Tel. 02-563-0066, (68)

MUSRARA, NEW, 4, roof terrace, Old City view, parking, CORINNE DAVAR, Tel. 02-673-3385, (68)

OLD KATAMON, PENTHOUSE, luxurious, 200 m., Arab house, breathtaking view, huge terrace, AVI KORN, Tel. 02-671-9740, (68)

RAMOT-BET 4.5 - ROOMS, excellent location, panoramic view, storage, private parking, Tel. 02-566-4908, (68)

RAY BERLIN, 3, 2nd floor, low floor, 2 bedrooms, immediate, \$290,000, Exclusive to AMBASADOR, Tel. 02-561-9101, (68)

REHAVIA, EXCELLENT INVESTMENT, 3, 4, rooms with garden/terrace, CORINNE DAVAR, Tel. 02-673-3385, (68)

TALBIEH (WASHINGTON), 4, nice, convenient floor, balconies, quiet, T.A.C. Tel. 02-563-1784, (68)

JERUSALEM QUARTER, UNIQUE cottage, 4, modern kitchen, private patio, Tel. 02-625-1258, (791918)

HAR NOF PENTHOUSE, 4.5, beautiful view, \$285,000, no agents, Tel. 02-651-2302, (791942)

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FOR SERIOUS CLIENT FROM abroad, seeking private home in established neighborhood, ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE (CPRE) Tel. 02-628-5565, 050-601-975, (68)

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## DWELLINGS

### Tel Aviv

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SEA VIEW! FULLY equipped renovated apartments & studios. Short/long term, Tel. 03-546-6820, (68)

BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY APARTMENTS tourist & businessmen, short/long term, DYNAM, Tel. 03-546-9007, Fax. 03-546-9007

FOR TOURISTS, BUSINESSMEN, luxury studio apartments, long/short term, Tel. 052-451127, Fax. 03-620-0108.

## DWELLINGS

### Tel Aviv

PRIVATE TOURISTS, BUSINESSMEN, beautifully furnished apartment, near Dizengoff Center, short/long-term, Tel. 03-525-3316, (19781)

## RENTALS

EZORE - CHEN, 4 & 5 + beautiful balconies, air conditioning, parking & guard, Tel. 052-553-282, (12756)

TOURISTS! NEAR DAN Hotel, furnished apartment, 6, cable TV, Tel. 03-524-8332, Private advertiser, (18123)

SEA VIEW! FURNISHED, double bathroom, 6, parking, short/long term, Tel. 03-544-4272, (68)



## DWELLINGS

Sharon Area

**RA'ANANA SALE**  
Prime quiet location, beautifully appointed 3 m. apartment, terrace, full kitchen, good investment. Opportunity to join a group purchasing excellent real estate at below market prices in Ra'anana near schools and synagogues. Call now for details.  
4 m. central, luxury home, 48 m. immediate \$700. Call now for details.  
ANGLO-SAXON Tel. 09-7741133

## SALES

CAESAREA, MOST LUXURIOUS

house, new, central air, pool + dune. Tel. 050-231-725, 050-636-3261. [12752]

HERZLIYA PITAH, BEAUTIFUL

house, sea view + 1/2 dune. Tel. 050-338-128, 09-955-2082. [12753]

KFAR-SHIMARAH, NEW VILLA

dune, swimming pool, 400 sq. m. built. Tel. 09-955-8013. [15111]

CAESAREA, GARDEN APARTMENT

well cared for, 100 sq. m., carpeted, parquet floors. Tel. 050-217-421. [79179]

5 LARGE MOST COMFORTABLE

luxurious, view central + quiet, \$280,000. Tel. 09-741-4905, 050-636-3261. [15121]

CAESAREA, LUXURIOUS HOUSE

Antique style, pool, sea, central vacuum. Tel. 050-231-725. [15067]

PARDESIYA, HOUSE, LARGE 3 bed

rooms, 3 bath, swimming pool, modern kitchen, 2 a/c. Tel. 09-955-2589. [79159]

NETANYA, SEA-FRONT, LUXURY

house, view, 3 rooms, Tel. 09-774-6483 (NS), 09-746-2182, ext. 310. [791913]

## DWELLINGS

Haifa and North

## SALES

CENTRAL-CARMEL, EXCLUSIVE

PENTHOUSE, most elegant, elevator, parking, view, \$2,400,000. Tel. 04-833-5243/45. [15122]

EINSTEIN, 5.5 ROOMS, quiet, \$235,000

large, Citaco Ltd. 04-8372400

SINAI AVE., 3 rooms, building permit

approved 3 rooms, Citaco Ltd. 04-8372400

## REALTY

Jerusalem Area

## BUSINESS PREMISES

TO RENT: STORE/OFFICE, 18 sq. m. +

galleria, Central, developing area. Tel. 02-625-9940.

## RENTALS

RENTAL - FOR INDUSTRIAL/BUSI-

NESS, 2 units, central area, 510 sq. m., in Moshav near Hadassah Ein Kerem, Tel. 02-565-2589, 09-930-0865. [791922]

## REALTY

Sharon Area

## PLOTS

HALF DUNE LAND, for building

Moshav Zofit, Tel. 09-740-9805, 052-323-353, Sheldan. [791914]

## BUSINESS OFFERS

General

## INVESTMENT

UNITED KINGDOM INVESTMENTS with

potential Properties from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000. Phone Mayir, Tel. 02-561-1222.

e-mail: perico@netvision.net.il

HADASSAH INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE. [68]

## BUSINESS OFFERS

Jerusalem

## GENERAL

OWNERS RETIRING - PROFITABLE

franchised food business with growth potential. Tel. 050-231-725. [68]

## BUSINESS OFFERS

Tel Aviv

## INVESTMENT

INVESTOR WANTED for a new Israeli

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## BUSINESS OFFERS

Sharon Area

## INVESTMENT

UNIQUE SHOP IN RA'ANANA - Good

location, growth potential, low overhead. Tel. 052-43824. [791982]

## SERVICES

General

## BUSINESS

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BATHROOMS - ZIEV renovation, repair,

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Tel Aviv

## LESSONS

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INTENSIVE, private. All languages + home/office. All areas. "Hebrew - Center." Tel. 052-211-553.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

General

## GENERAL

NEEDED: SKILLED WORKERS for

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## HOUSEHOLD HELP

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struction, Hebrew/English, Tel. Gloria 05-755-6989. [791919]

## International Job Club

Excellent Job Opportunities!

For all pairs, domestic help, childcare and caregivers for elderly. Great conditions. High salary, live in/out, countrywide. Tel. 03-688-5767, 052-891034

## MATANI MANPOWER NURSING

service, Philippine workers, permits or elderly/infant, 03-7323740, 052-332778. [68]

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Jerusalem

## HOUSEHOLD HELP

METAPLET LIVE-IN/OUT, Old City,

baby care + housekeeping, references, English speaking, experience. Tel. 02-625-2131. [791949]

## OFFICE STAFF

SECRETARY - UNIVERSITY, 10-15

hours. Strong computer skills and Hebrew. "KISHURIM." Tel. 02-566-4758. [15256]

RAFFLES HAIRDRESSING RE-

QUIRED: part-time English/Hebrew speaking receptionist. Tel. 02-623-5937. [68]

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Tel Aviv

## DRIVER

DIPLOMATIC MISSION seeks driver

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## HOUSEHOLD HELP

AU PAIR, (PREFER FILIPINO) for child-

care, housework, Ramat Aviv, live-in, good conditions. Tel. 03-691-8555, 050-230-928. [15075]

COMPANION FOR ELDER, independent

women, live-in, housework, English speaking. Tel. Laura 03-534-8348, 050-380-400. [791919]

AU-PAIR, ENGLISH SPEAKING, for 2

children, nice fam., Tel. 03-635-2558, 052-454-423. [791980]

LIVE-IN, AU-PAIR, REFERENCES,

Baby-care + housekeeping, French/English speaking. Tel. 03-647-0758. [791985]

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Tel Aviv

DON'T DESPAIR - BECOME an au pair!

Don't delay - phone today!! Au pair international has available the most promising and interesting job offers in Israel. Phone 24 hours 03-619-0423. [68]

IMMEDIATE AU-PAIR JOBS available,

friendly families, best conditions, the agency with a heart for the Au Pair. Call Home: (09) 955-9537. [68]

## Girls! Girls! Girls!

Our families need

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For girls from other and R.S.A. The families will award very good pay.

Same applies for Brits, Aussies or Kiwi. We will arrange fantastic jobs over a cup of tea.

Don't delay, phone today!

Tel. 03-619-0423 Fax 03-575-5483

## EXCLUSIVE AU-PAIR AGENCY

in North Tel Aviv seeking qualified, intelligent candidates, high salaries. Tel. 050-620-394. [11786]

FRENCH/HEBREW SPEAKING

au-pair/mothers help, live-in only required, Tel Aviv area, for housework/childcare. 03-6190423

LIVE-IN MAID, REFERENCES, experi-

enced with babies, warm household. Tel. 050-308-898. [791927]

QUALIFIED NANNY, English mother-

tongue, live-in/out, Tel Aviv area, to care for newborn. 03-6190423

SEEKING HOUSEKEEPER + child-

care, warm fam., Giv'atayim, Tel. 051-5571, 052-450-153. (NS). [791953]

## LEGAL

Yemin, Kari-Yor & Schwartz, Law Offices

Required for our offices in Netanya:

## PARALEGAL

with US academic background,

excellent written English and spoken Hebrew. Fax resume to: 03-693-8427

## OFFICE STAFF

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY, 8-5,

computer literate essential (Word). Tel. 03-524-5367. [791932]

IMMEDIATE I + ENGLISH WORD-

PROCESSING, for short or long-term work, good conditions. TIGBUR. Tel. 03-629-5705/7. [15124]

LARGE ACCOUNTANTS' OFFICE seeks

secretary, Hebrew/English word processing, Word, Ramat Gan. Tel. 03-625-8258. [15102]

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Dan Region

## HOUSEHOLD HELP

FOR AN IMMEDIATE job, 6 days, need

an excellent maid, live-in, household management, recommendation required. Tel. 050-414-777. [15113]

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Sharon Area

## HOUSEHOLD HELP

LIVE-IN, AU PAIR FOR one year old,

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URGENT! DYNAMIC COUPLE, live in

near Caesarea, housekeeping, childcare, gardening. Tel. 050-453-504. [15119]

LIVE IN METAPLET for baby, Ra'anana,

references required. Tel. 09-771-6806, 052-460-013. [791933]

AU PAIR, PARDESS HANNA, childcare

+ cleaning, warm household, English speaking. Tel. 052-555-636, 05-637-8665. [791916]

AU-PAIR, FOR TWINS, Herzliya-Pituah,

live-in, references, experience. English/Hebrew. Tel. 09-955-7153. [791978]

CHILD CARE, HOUSEKEEPER, LIVE-IN,

Permit available, warm family Tel. 09-748-4949 (NS). [790955]

RA'ANANA, LIVE-IN, SEEKING English

speaking au-pair for loving family. Tel. 09-741-2443 (NS) [Michaleh]. [790938]

SEEKING HOUSEKEEPER FOR nice

family in Ra'anana, live-in/out, references. Tel. 09-771-5762. [791945]

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Sharon Area

## HOUSEHOLD HELP

Au pair / housekeeper,

experienced, dedicated, live-in, childcare.

References.

Tel. 050-237-376

or 09-958-2601

## OFFICE STAFF

TYPIST HEBREW / ENGLISH, Herzliya,

full time. Tel. 09-958-9014. [12756]

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Haifa and North

## GENERAL

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR -

SUCCESSFUL apparel manufacturer, Afula based, seeks experienced person to coordinate production with U.S. clients, English mother-tongue, excellent organizational skills required, contact Joseph. Tel. 09-744-2448, fax. 09-742-3490. [791944]

## SITUATIONS WANTED

Tel Aviv

## OFFICE STAFF

SECRETARY FOR RAMAT GAN office,

English mother-tongue essential, fluent spoken Hebrew, computer literate, (excel, word, internet), house: 12.00-19.00 - Fridays. Call Sharon 03-575-3388. [791981]

## SITUATIONS WANTED

Haifa and North

## OFFICE STAFF

FIRST-CLASS EXPERIENCED

BOOKKEEPER fully computer literate wants responsible position. Tel. 050-253-324. [791953]

## PURCHASE/SALES

Haifa and North

## OFFICE STAFF

FIRST-CLASS EXPERIENCED

BOOKKEEPER fully computer literate wants responsible position. Tel. 050-253-324. [791958]

## PURCHASE/SALES

General

CASH! WE PURCHASE gold, dia-

monds, coins, watches, antiques. Tel. 03-510-6788. [79079]

## PURCHASE/SALES

Jerusalem

STAMPS - GIANT LOT, worldwide, est.

250,000 + stamps, NIS 1000, Tel. 02-531-5678, 02-6757867 (Sam) [15114]

## COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: XANTE Accel-a-Writer, B&W

printer for A-4 and A-3 paper, fine conditions, good for PC or Mac. Tel. 02-9073735 (NS)

## FOR SALE

BRAND NEW DOUBLE even, self-

cleaning, \$325 plus removal. Tel. 02-555-3658. [791928]

## PURCHASE/SALES

Tel Aviv

## HOUSEHOLD GOODS

PRIVATE SALE, ANTIQUE French furni-

ture, high quality (Only French/English/Rumanian speakers). Tel. 053-511-207. [791986]

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WILL BUY ANTIQUE furniture, whole

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## ADC/BOSTON U.S.A.

is looking for a bright



# Bible Lands Museum will host Pessah Handicrafts Fair

## VEHICLES

### Jerusalem

**FORD TAURUS**, 1993, 6 seater legally 8000, cruise control, power front seat, abs, air bag, 62,000 km, silver metallic, excellent condition. Tel. 050-356-299, 02-535-1266 (NIS). [14583]

**HYUNDAI ACCENT**, 1997, mint condition, 1.5, automatic ABS, A/B, power windows, radio, air, alarm system, silver metallic, 12,000 km, practically brand new. Tel. 052-282-516, 02-631-0306, [790767]

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## BAGHDAD

Continued from Page 13

The reputation of Iraqi doctors, many of whom studied in the West, is such that even today people from neighboring countries travel here for medical treatment - although now they must bring their own pharmaceutical and hospital supplies.

Although the capital is grimy

and ill-kept after seven years of sanctions, echoes of its comfortable bourgeois past are evident in its palm-lined boulevards, spacious villas and abundant parks and cultural centers.

On weekends, young couples enjoy the Tigris River from the deck of a cruise ship operated by the Iraqi national airline, whose planes are grounded under the sanctions regime. Families head into the surrounding countryside to search for precious desert truffles, now flourishing after plentiful winter rains.

SUCH GLIMPSES of normal life, however, only underscore how far the country has fallen under the trade embargo, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Much of the country's educated elite has fled; power generation is only 40 percent of prewar levels; and poultry production has plummeted by 95 percent, according to the office of UN humanitarian aid in Baghdad.

Perhaps most alarming to UN aid workers is the effect of the embargo on children under age five: An estimated 30 percent suf-

fer from chronic or acute malnutrition.

There has to be a better way of doing it," said a senior UN official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another conspicuous category of victims is the large class of salaried professionals - doctors, university professors, engineers - whose incomes were rendered almost worthless by the plunge in the Iraqi currency, the dinar.

Mona Elwan, for example, earns the equivalent of \$5 a month as head of the English department at Baghdad University College for Women. Elwan, who earned a doctorate from a university in Washington state, gave up her washing machine because there were no spare parts to fix it and sold her dryer for extra cash.

"I used to buy mayonnaise," she said. "Now I have to make it."

At the English department, meanwhile, professors struggle to do their jobs with manual typewriters, no copy machines and chronic shortages of stationery and supplies.

"Students have a desire to learn, but they need good teachers," she said. "Even if the teacher goes to

class, if he is unhappy and worried he cannot reach the students."

Physical hardships aside, educated Iraqis speak of their frustration at being largely cut off from technological advances, like the Internet and mobile telephones.

"We are backward in the world," said Murtaza Khafaf, 58, recalling her first encounter with a fax machine during a recent trip to neighboring Jordan. "I said, 'My God, I'm so ignorant.'"

IN THE view of diplomats and UN humanitarian officials here, Iraq's isolation has had a profound psychological effect on young people, encouraging strains of nationalism and xenophobia.

Many of these young people, moreover, are assuming positions of leadership in the ruling Baath Party, which held regional elections last year.

Central to their beliefs is the idea that the US and Britain are determined to deny Iraq its rightful place as leader of the Arab world, no matter who runs the country.

"Iraq has had the leadership of the Arab countries throughout history," said Ali Abdel Amir, 19, the

son of a retired army captain and a second-year geography student at Baghdad University.

"Iraq is not just a robot that moves simply under instruction from others," added Amir, who carried a battered - though unloaded - Kalashnikov assault rifle, which is issued to members of the student militia.

"We live under the survival law. It's just an international jungle."

Other Iraqis, however, warn foreigners against reading too much into public displays of support for Saddam, in a country where political dissent can have lethal consequences.

Many students, said one government employee, participate in the "volunteer" militia simply to avoid trouble with university bureaucrats or security officials.

And Hassan disputed the suggestion that young Iraqis are turning their backs on the outside world.

"On the contrary, they would like to see the world," he said. "They would like to know more about the world, and they would like the world to know more about us."

(The Washington Post)

## AGENDA

Continued from Page 7

### The Israelis and Turks

The presidents' conference delegation set out Wednesday on a special flight to Ankara to meet with the Turkish prime minister. Ankara's wooing of the Jewish lobby in the US is even more forceful than its advances in the direction of Jerusalem.

A serious confrontation is under way between Turkey and Cyprus, in which Israel has become unwittingly embroiled. The issue is the positioning of Russian M-300 anti-aircraft missile batteries. The Turks announced that as far as they are concerned, this is a casus belli which they cannot ignore. The Russians have already warned Jerusalem, as Ankara's ally, not to get involved.

The presidents' conference, which has been planning this visit for a considerable time, will land in the middle of the crisis.

According to a telegram sent from the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, the Greeks and the Egyptians have called Israeli-Turkish cooperation a "union of evil" and have also emphasized that Turkey's shopping list in Israel includes 100 Israeli-made missiles, 40 of which have already been delivered, aimed at neutralizing the M-300 missiles.

### Wanted - a national confidant

The die is cast and the next head of the Mossad will be Ephraim Halevy, the former Mossad No. 2 and architect of our relations with Jordan. His deputy will be OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine, who will replace Halevy in two years. Under present circumstances, this is probably the most responsible combination which could have been found.

Besides the actual appointment, two other aspects should be noted. The first is in the political sphere:

the consultations with Ehud Barak, which despite all the denials, may be a sign of a future coalition partnership. Officials in Jerusalem have not discounted the possibility that Netanyahu is keeping the Foreign Ministry for just this purpose, not because he has had an affection for it since before he became prime minister.

The second point concerns the appointment of an adviser on intelligence affairs, mentioned in the Cichanover Report. This is not the first time that committees which dealt with military issues recommended themselves to the prime ministers as intelligence advisers. Nor is this the first time that the leaders of the intelligence community have objected. A senior official explained that this is not only because they fear a conspiracy, but rather because, within the structure which currently exists, this position is ineffective.

In the US, the chief of intelligence is the head of the CIA, who leads the Council for Intelligence, which incorporates those officials

who head the American secret service community.

In Israel, there is an anomaly from this point of view. In practice, the head of intelligence is responsible for making assessments as well as for the main bodies responsible for gathering military information. However, he is not directly responsible to the prime minister, but to the chief of general staff and the minister of defense. Former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also acted as minister of defense, met with him on a weekly basis. In Netanyahu's case, such direct contact is less formalized.

Israel's intelligence community does not discount the possibility that the prime minister should have a close adviser. Not someone who will look for faults, such as those typical of Yehuda Gil's activities, but a discerning confidant with an intelligence background who will be close enough to Netanyahu's ear to help him ask the right questions, to clarify complex issues, and provide a second opinion. In real time.

## HAMAS

Continued from Page 1

The charge sheet states that Sharif told Bakri he had prepared the bomb used in the suicide attack last March in the Apropo Cafe in Tel Aviv, where three women were killed. Sharif also told Bakri the bombs used in the two suicide attacks in Jerusalem were made by Mahmoud Abu Ahojoun of Nablus and that he was in contact with fugitive Izzidin Kassam commander and bomb-maker Mohammed Dief, reported to be in Gaza.

According to the charge sheet, Sharif and Bakri prepared some 50 kg. of explosives in Bakri's home. Bakri admitted to harboring the two Hamas fugitives, but denied the other allegations against him.

Meanwhile, Palestinian intelligence chief Tawfik Trawi confirmed that his forces had arrested nine Hamas activists on Tuesday

and are searching for a tenth suspect who fled. Last night Channel 1 claimed Trawi's men acted on a GSS tip and arrested 12 Hamas activists. Those arrested said Trawi included Sallah Darwaza, a Hamas leader in Nablus, and Fayez Nabil Bishtawi, who were released from Nablus Prison two months ago. Others included Tawfik Habash, Thab Abu Zahra, Shadi Amoudi, and Raed Annadi, all from the Nablus area, Mohammed Muslimi from the Balata refugee camp, and Yusuf Kadmozi from the Asker Kadim camp.

Security forces failed to arrest Ghanem Sawalma, also from Balata, Palestinian sources said. Trawi refused to elaborate on the arrests or confirm reports that more arrests are forthcoming.

The Hamas leader in Gaza, Abdel Azziz Rantisi, denied claims the captured Hamas cell had planned to storm a foreign embassy here and take hostages.

Jay Bushinsky contributed to this report.

## MADRID

Continued from Page 1

"Only the United States understands us," he went on. "And not, as many people believe, because it has a large Jewish community, but because they identify us with the new Promised Land, just as

America itself is."

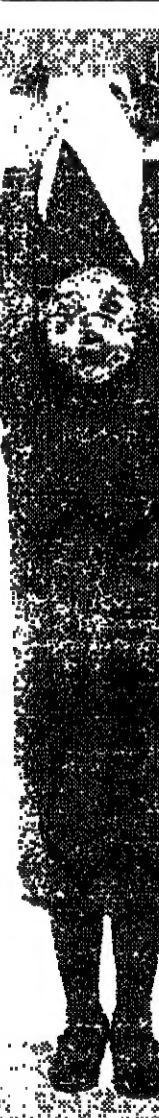
Netanyahu also ruled out an independent Palestinian state, saying: "I cannot contemplate unlimited independence because that would imply that a state could sign military accords with Iraq or Iran and then we would not just have the threat of Saddam Hussein's missiles, but rather that

of his troops on our doorstep."

"The only solution is shared power by which the Palestinians would govern in internal matters," Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib add.

Arafat's adviser Ahmed Tibi called Netanyahu's proposal to meet with Arafat a public relations stunt.

"Mr. Netanyahu wants a meeting for the sake of holding a meeting, which is a good public relations act. The Palestinians however want to ensure that the meeting will have some substance and that progress will be achieved. Many meetings in the past have been held with Netanyahu, but they failed to achieve any results," Tibi said.



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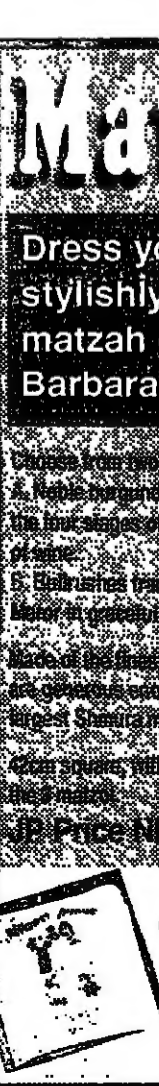
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# Lakers rally around beleaguered coach

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With their coach under fire, the Los Angeles Lakers appeared to snap out of a slump.

And if Shaquille O'Neal keeps hitting free throws like nobody's business, coach Del Harris will have more to smile about.

O'Neal had 29 points and made 13 of 15 free throws Wednesday night as the Los Angeles Lakers, perhaps stung by reports that Harris was about to be fired, beat the Indiana Pacers 104-95.

"It's an important win," Harris said. "We needed to win in any event. We have had probably two of our 10 best games this year against Indiana."

The Lakers snapped a two-game losing streak with just their sixth win in 13 games since the All-Star break, a slump prompting a newspaper report that coach Del Harris was on the verge of being dismissed.

However, team spokesman John Black said before the game that the team had no plans at this time to make any coaching change.

O'Neal was 8-of-12 from the field and had 12 rebounds as the Lakers (40-18) moved within 44 games of the Pacific Division-leading Seattle SuperSonics, who lost 96-83 at Orlando.

O'Neal entered the game having made 49.6 percent of his free throws.

"I'm capable of doing that when I concentrate," he said of his free-throw accuracy. "We came out and played excellent, smart ball. If we can play like that, we're going to be a hard team to beat."

Warriors 90, Spurs 83  
After losing the Latrell Sprewell arbitration case, Golden State got a win at home.

Playing hours after an arbitrator reinstated the last two years of Sprewell's contract and reduced his one-year suspension by five months, the Warriors beat San Antonio, snapping a four-game losing streak.

"I thought our organization made a statement of what they think is acceptable behavior and the league supported that," Warriors coach P.J. Carlesimo said.

Tim Duncan had a career-high 35 points for San Antonio.

Kings 109, Pistons 8  
Cassius Williamson scored a

career-high 40 points as Sacramento ended its seven-game losing streak with a victory over Detroit.

Williamson, who has 111 points in his past four games, surpassed his previous career high of 30 by the end of the third quarter. He hit 16 of 23 shots and all but one of his nine free throws.

Magic 96, Sonics 83  
Nick Anderson, back from a bout with the flu, scored 31 points to help host Orlando snap Seattle's five-game winning streak.

Anderson, averaging just under 28 points in his last six games, made 5 of 6 shots during a 32-point third quarter that enabled Orlando to break the game open. He finished 13-for-19 and also grabbed eight rebounds.

76ers 87, Bucks 80  
Joe Smith had his best game since being dealt to the 76ers and Derrick Coleman had 19 points and 10 rebounds as Philadelphia won at home.

Smith scored 15 points on 6-of-9 shooting with four rebounds in 26 minutes. Theo Ratliff added 13 points and seven rebounds for Philadelphia, which returned home after a four-game road trip.

Smith hadn't scored more than 14 points since being traded to Philadelphia two weeks ago. He had a 2-for-10 shooting night against Indiana and was 1-for-12 against Denver.

Glen Robinson had 21 points and eight rebounds, Tyrone Hill grabbed 18 rebounds, Ray Allen scored 17 points and Armon Gilliam added 14 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter, as the Bucks lost their third in a row.

Hornets 112, T-wolves 102  
Host Charlotte extended its best winning streak of the season to six games as Anthony Mason scored nine of his 21 points in a fourth-quarter run.

Mason added seven rebounds and three assists as Charlotte improved its all-time home record against the Timberwolves to 10-0. Charlotte's Glen Rice scored 22 two nights after having his franchise-record run of 135 double-figure scoring games snapped.

The Timberwolves Tom Gugliotta is out for the season following knee surgery.

Cavaliers 122, Raptors 88  
Wesley Person tied a career high



**FOUL PLAY** — Hornets' Bobby Phillips (13) falls to the parquet after being fouled by Timberwolves' Anthony Peeler (hand visible at far right). Minnesota's Cherokee Parks moves in on left. Charlotte won 112-102.

with 33 points and Cleveland reached a season-high point total in routing visiting Toronto.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 21 points and 17 rebounds, and Brevin Knight passed for 17 assists as Cleveland won a second straight game for the first time in 30 days.

Rookie Derek Anderson had 13 points in 17 minutes in his return after missing 15 games with a knee injury. The Cavs were 6-9 overall their 13th overall 1997 draft pick.

Person set a club record for a half with six 3-pointers in the first, sparking Cleveland to a 65-43 lead. Person hit five 3s in the second quarter, when he scored 20 of his 25 first-half points. Person's only miss from 3-point range came with less than two minutes left in the first half.

Jazz 110, Celtics 94  
Karl Malone had 32 points and 15 rebounds and the Utah Jazz overcame 36 points and 10 rebounds by Antoine Walker to

beat host Boston for the 13th consecutive time.

Utah has won four in a row, 11 of 12 and six of its last seven on the road. The Celtics snapped a three-game winning streak, and coach Rick Pitino wasn't around to see it.

Pitino was ejected after drawing two technicals while arguing an out-of-bounds call with 4:04 left in the game and the Jazz leading 96-85. Jeff Hornacek made both foul shots, and Malone added a dunk to give Utah a 15-point lead.

Minnesota 94, Timberwolves 83  
SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle SuperSonics, who have lost four of their last five games, snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Seattle's Shawn Kemp scored 21 points and 11 rebounds, while the Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett had 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Portland 102, Trail Blazers 95  
PORTLAND (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers won their first game since losing to the Seattle SuperSonics.

Portland's Steve Blaine scored 21 points and 11 rebounds, while the Trail Blazers' Steve Blaine scored 21 points and 11 rebounds.

San Antonio 90, Spurs 83  
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs lost to the Warriors.

San Antonio's Tim Duncan scored 35 points, while the Warriors' Latrell Sprewell scored 21 points.

Golden State 90, Warriors 83  
GOLDEN STATE (AP) — The Golden State Warriors won their first game since losing to the Lakers.

Golden State's Reggie Miller scored 21 points, while the Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal scored 29 points.

Los Angeles 104, Indiana 95  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers won their first game since losing to the Pacers.

Los Angeles' Shaquille O'Neal scored 29 points, while the Pacers' Reggie Miller scored 21 points.

Utah 110, Celtics 94  
UTAH (AP) — The Utah Jazz won their first game since losing to the Celtics.

Utah's Karl Malone scored 32 points, while the Celtics' Paul Pierce scored 21 points.

Charlotte 112, Timberwolves 102  
CHARLOTTE (AP) — The Charlotte Hornets won their first game since losing to the Timberwolves.

Charlotte's Anthony Mason scored 21 points, while the Timberwolves' Glen Rice scored 22 points.

San Antonio 90, Spurs 83  
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs lost to the Warriors.

## Bresnik to captain Austrian rackets vs. Israel

By HEATHER CHAIT

Austria's fledgling Davis Cup team to play against Israel next month at Ramat Hasharon may lack stature among the players but has an experienced captain at the helm.

Günther Bresnik, who in the past has coached Amos Mansdorf, Boris Becker, Jakob Hlasek and Henri Leconte, was appointed this week to captain the Austrian squad in the tie from April 3-5.

The winner of the tie will advance to the playoff for the 16-nation World Group in September.

Bresnik is no novice at this role, having captained Austria in the years 1991-1993.

He replaces Ronald Leingeb, Thomas Muster's manager and coach. Muster, Austria's No. 1 player, gladdened many local hearts when he pulled out of this tie for professional reasons and the second racket, Gilbert Schaller, now looks set to follow suit.

Schaller has been troubled by a shoulder injury which has prevented his playing for several weeks.

If both Muster and Schaller are unavailable, the initial tie will be severely disrupted with the visitors falling to the left-handed Stefan Koubek, 148 in the ATP ranking.

Israel's squad is likely to include Eyal Erlich, and Amir Hadad.

## Pasta saves the day

SYDNEY (AP) — Australian diplomats have been called in to rush cans of baked beans and spaghetti to feed Australian spin bowler Shane Warne because team managers fear he is wasting away while on tour because he doesn't like Indian food.

Australian Cricket Board officials confirmed yesterday team manager Steve Bernard had contacted the board from Chennai, India, requesting urgent food supplies be sent for the legspinner.

Warne, who was criticized last year for being overweight, has been eating only sparse helpings of cereal.

Indian tour capsules to "I am real" some canned spaghetti. Warne said he was concerned about losing weight to illness after Mark Taylor, Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting all became sick in India this week.

Alan Crompton, former Australian Cricket Board chairman, said Warne should consider broadening his diet from well known favorites such as spaghetti bolognese, lasagne and pizza.

## Jones returns to lead Colorado past Maple Leafs

TORONTO (AP) — Keith Jones, back from a serious knee injury, scored a goal and added two assists as the Colorado Avalanche defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-3 on Wednesday.

Jones, playing in just his fourth game since tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in last year's playoffs, scored his first goal since April 13, 1997. The Leafs had trouble containing the Avalanche all night, with Jones scoring the game-winner at 3:52 of the third on a scramble after he retrieved his dropped stick.

Valeri Kamensky, Sandis Ozolinsh, Rene Corbet and Adam Deadmarsh — into an empty net — also scored for the Avalanche.

The win helped Colorado avoid its second three-game losing streak of the season.

Peter Forsberg added two assists to take over the NHL scoring lead with 73 points. He also has a league-leading 52 assists.

Darby Hendrickson, Sergei Berezin and Mathieu Schneider replied for the Maple Leafs.

Rangers 4, Panthers 2  
Wayne Gretzky had two power-

play goals and an assist to lift visiting New York and extend Florida's winless streak to six games.

With the score 2-2, Niklas Sundstrom scored 28 seconds into the third period as he poked in a rebound of Bruce Driver's slap shot from the point. Gretzky notched his 47th assist on the play.

Mike Richter had 39 saves to outduel Kevin Weekes (30 saves), who was making his second NHL start in place of John Vanbiesbroeck.

Canadiens 3, Stars 1  
Andy Moog frustrated his former teammates with a 24-save performance as visiting Montreal ended the Stars' six-game unbeaten streak. Moog registered his 370th career victory while Montreal was ending a four-game losing streak.

Moog was the Stars' No. 1 goaltender in their first four seasons in Dallas before signing a free-agent contract with the Canadiens in the offseason.

Red Wings 2, Mighty Ducks 0  
Kevin Hodson earned his third career shutout with 35 saves and

Brent Gilchrist scored a power-play goal.

The victory, coupled with Dallas' 3-1 loss to Montreal, put the Red Wings within four points of the Stars for the NHL's best record and extended Detroit's unbeaten streak to four games (3-0-1). Steve Yzerman added his 14th goal on a 2-on-1 break with 4:11 remaining.

The shutout was the first by the Red Wings on the road since December 1996, when Hodson beat Washington 2-0. His other shutout was 8 weeks ago against Phoenix.

Oilers 4, Lightning 2  
Host Edmonton won its third straight, holding off a late charge by the Lightning.

Doug Weight, Scott Fraser, Roman Hamrlik and Dean McAmmond scored for the Oilers. Stephane Richer scored both goals for the Lightning on power plays.

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**Mets, Dodgers showcase Asian hurlers**

PORT ST. LUCIE, Florida (AP) — When the New York Mets faced the Los Angeles Dodgers, it was a showcase of some of the best arms from South Korea and Japan.

Chan Ho Park of the Dodgers homered off fellow Korean Jae-Woong Seo of the Mets as Los Angeles beat New York 7-6 on Wednesday.

"I had mixed feelings about it," said Seo, a 20-year-old right-hander who said he never thought about playing in the majors until Park became the first Korean to do so. "I was glad for him, but not too happy it happened."

Seo also gave up a solo homer to Mike Piazza, but struck out five in two innings. Park got the win in relief with four shutout innings, striking out four.

"I am impressed with him," Park said of Seo. "He just needs experience here and speaking English."

Park said his homer, one of four by Los Angeles, was the first he could remember since high school.

The confrontation between the Dodgers' Hideo Nomo and Masato Yoshii, who started for the Mets, was a lot less dramatic. Yoshii went down swinging, but his concern was more with his duties on the mound.

"Unlike Mr. Nomo, I am just a rookie here trying to be No. 5 in the rotation," Yoshii said. "Before I got on the mound I had a certain theme and I was able to clear that."

Nomo allowed three runs and five hits in two innings. He was impressed by Yoshii, who allowed a run and two hits in three innings.

Phillies 13, Pirates 2  
Rookie Delino DeShazo had three hits for Philadelphia, and three Pittsburgh errors helped the Phillies score seven runs in the first.

Relafo also scored three runs and drove in two at Bradenton, Fla.

**Mets, Dodgers showcase Asian hurlers**

The Pirates, 1-6 this spring while being outscored 57-29, made six errors — including two each by second baseman Tony Womack and shortstop Lou Collier.

Rangers 8, Blue Jays 5  
An RBI single by Mike Simms broke a 4-1 tie, and Rob Sasser's two-run double highlighted a four-run eighth inning.

Devil Rays (ss) 10, Reds (ss) 2  
Fred McGriff's two-run double after a game-tying single by Wade Boggs paced a four-run sixth inning by Tampa Bay in the split-squad game at Sarasota, Fla.

Reds starter Dave Burba allowed one hit in five scoreless innings, leaving with a 1-0 lead. In eight innings this spring, Burba has allowed three hits and two runs, with no walks and five strikeouts.

Yankees (ss) 9, Reds (ss) 8  
Ivan Cruz's one-out double scored Scott Pose in the ninth inning at Tampa, Fla., completing a seven-run comeback by a New York split squad.

Indians 10, Royals 7  
Richie Sexson hit a three-run pinch homer off rookie left-hander Tim Lincecum in the 11th inning at Haines City, Fla.

Sexson, who led the American Association with 31 homers last season, has two hits — both 3-run homers — in nine spring at-bats.

Cleveland's Jose Mesa gave up Terry Pendleton's game-tying

**Cummins and goings**

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks traded defenseman Keith Carney and right wing Jim Cummins to the Phoenix Coyotes on Wednesday for center Chad Kilger and defenseman Jay More.

In other deals, the Philadelphia Flyers acquired Sean Burke from the Vancouver Canucks for backup goaltender Garth Snow.

NBA Automatic Bids  
Schools that have received automatic bids to the NCAA basketball tournament. All bids are by virtue of conference tournament championships with the exception of Ivy League and Pacific-10 conferences, which do not conduct postseason tournaments.

Arizona Pacific-10 Conference  
Boston Northeast Collegiate Conference  
College of Charleston Trans America Athletic Conference  
Davidson Southern Conference  
Eastern Michigan Mid-American Conference  
Fairleigh Dickinson Northeast Conference  
Illinois State Missouri Valley Conference  
Iowa Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference  
Murray State Ohio Valley Conference  
Purdue Big South Conference  
Richmond Colonial Athletic Association  
San Francisco West Coast Conference  
South Alabama Sun Belt Conference  
Valparaiso Mid-Continent Conference

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